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Israeli soldiers attacked on Golan Heights

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — A firebomb was thrown at an Israeli army patrol on the occupied Golan Heights but caused no damage or injuries, a military official said Saturday. The firebomb was thrown late Friday near the village of Majdal Shams, the main settlement of Druze living on the Golan, which Israel seized from Syria in 1967. The army combed the area for suspects but found no evidence of the attackers, the official said. It was the first such incident on the Golan in several years. In another development, two Hizbollah guerrillas were killed in an attack Saturday against an Israeli army command convoy in the border zone occupied by Israel in South Lebanon, a security official in the area said. The unmarked cars in the convoy were damaged in the attack, which did not cause any injuries among the Israeli troops, according to initial reports available to the official.

Illiteracy reaches 19% in Gaza Strip

GAZA CITY (AFP) — Nearly one in five Palestinians living in the Gaza Strip are illiterate, a legacy of Israel's closing of schools during the seven-year intifada, a Palestinian report said Saturday. The annual report by the Palestinian literacy programme said that 19 per cent of Gaza's 940,000 residents are illiterate, compared to less than six per cent before the 1987-1994 intifada. "The increase is attributable to Israeli actions during the intifada, when they closed schools and imprisoned teachers and students," the programme director, Emad Hatab, told AFP. He also blamed poverty and unemployment, exacerbated by an Israeli security closure slapped on Gaza since February, which has forced students to leave school to work. Rock-throwing youths, mostly school-age, led protests during the intifada and often bore the brunt of the Israeli response.

Jordan takes delivery of U.S. military aid worth $100 million

King pays tribute to Washington's gesture as clear indication of U.S.-Jordanian friendship

American equipment will boost Armed Forces' ability to protect the Kingdom, its constitution and democracy as well as role in peacekeeping, His Majesty says

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter with agency dispatches

JORDAN on Saturday took delivery of $100 million worth of military equipment from the United States as part of Washington's aid to the Kingdom.

His Majesty King Hussein, the supreme commander of the Armed Forces, inspected the equipment as it was being unloaded from the USS Cape Wrath which docked at Aqaba port last week.

During the handing over ceremony aboard the USS Cape Wrath, King Hussein, who was accompanied by His Royal Highness Prince Hamzeh, Prime Minister and Defence Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti and the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Field Marshal Abdul Hafez Mirai, and senior military officials, praised the "wonderful American gift."

In comments to the press, the King described the U.S. aid a "firm and true indication of the fact that we are friends and that we stand together."



His Majesty King Hussein, accompanied by U.S. Ambassador Wesley Egan, on Saturday inspects a helicopter from among the 18 that were delivered to Jordan as part of U.S. military assistance to Jordan (photo by Yousef Allan)

"Indeed we are deeply grateful for the president of the United States and his administration ... for their support and we are proud of our association with each other," the King told a press conference aboard the USS Cape Wrath.

U.S. Ambassador Wesley Egan told the news conference that the value of the aid from Defence Department stockpiles included spare parts, training and transportation to Jordan.

Included in the equipment were 18 UH-1H helicopters, 50 M60A3 tanks, 250 M1008 and M1009 trucks, two MK-4 personnel boats and an air-sea rescue vessel as well as machine guns and 1,000 night vision goggles.

The aid is part of $300 million pledged by the Clinton administration to help Jordan modernise its strong armed forces.

The remainder is $200 million worth of 16 F-16 jet fighters that the United States will deliver to Jordan by the end of 1997.

Additionally, Ambassador Egan said, a C-130H aircraft will be delivered to the Royal Jordanian Air Force by March.

King Hussein said the (Continued on page 7)

EU voices concern over peace process, demands Israeli moves

European leaders condemn settlement policy, ask special envoy to press Israel

DUBLIN (Agencies) — European Union (EU) leaders voiced grave concern over the deteriorating Middle East peace process and condemned Israeli settlements in a draft declaration on Saturday.

"The European Council is gravely concerned by the continuing deterioration in the peace process," said the statement made available to reporters at the European summit meeting in the Irish capital.

"It calls on all parties actively to discourage violence and work for a reduction of tension so that negotiations can resume on all tracks...," it said.

The statement was drafted by EU foreign ministers after a week in which two West Bank Jewish settlers were killed by suspected Palestinian militants and the Israeli government announced plans to expand existing settlements on occupied Arab land.

"The settlements issue is eroding confidence in the peace process," the European text said. "Settlements contravene international law and are a major obstacle to peace," the 15 EU heads of state and government said in a statement after a two-day summit here..

The 15 EU leaders also addressed a series of hard-hitting demands to Israel to ease a blockade on the Palestinian territories and instructed their special Middle East envoy to promote these as immediate measures.

The detailed list, meant to be confidential but released inadvertently to the media by the EU's Irish presidency, included demands for a commitment to allow more than 50,000 Palestinian workers into Israel in all circumstances.

Among the detailed demands the EU special envoy was instructed to make were:

— A commitment to allow a significant number — in excess of 50,000 — of Palestinian workers into Israeli territory in all circumstances.

— The elimination of abuses and humiliating practices at checkpoints

— The lifting of all impediments to the transport and export of perishable goods

— The facilitation of the passage of ambulances and medical doctors through checkpoints

— The facilitation of family reunification by broadening the very restrictive definition

— Without prejudice to the outcome of negotiations on the status of Jerusalem, taking measures to prevent the separation of family members living in the city.

They added several economic demands including the opening of a Gaza airport and an agreement on the construction of an EU-funded Gaza port.

The Israeli government on Friday declared the West Bank settlements "national priority" zones which grants them tax breaks and subsidies. The move came after an attack that killed two Jewish settlers on Wednesday.

The Palestinian legislative council described the decision as "dangerous" and called for Palestinians to prepare for confrontation.

Some 140,000 settlers live in about 145 west bank and Gaza Strip settlements.

The EU urged all parties involved to "actively discourage violence, and to work toward lowering tensions in such a way that negotiations can resume on all tracks."

The EU statement called for a "rapid settlement of the impasse over Hebron," whose transfer from Israeli to Palestinian authority under the Middle East peace accords has been delayed.

The statement urged Israel and the Palestinians to cooperate on security and take all necessary measures to control extremists and combat terrorism.

It urged Israel to lift all restrictions on Palestinians, "except where Israel's legitimate security interests are obviously at stake, as in the case of terrorism."

It said Palestinian social and economic development required the immediate lifting of the Israeli blockade on the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"The European Council urges the Israeli authorities to remove all restrictions except where Israel's legitimate security interests are manifestly engaged, as in the case of acts of terrorism," the statement said.

It warned that the dire economic consequences of the blockade were breeding discontent and violence and had dissipated the optimism generated by the establishment of the Palestinian self-rule.

PNA warns Israel, urges Palestinians to be ready to fight settlement policy

GAZA (Agencies) — The Palestinian National Authority (PNA), warning that hardline Israeli policies were leading the Middle East to the brink of an explosion, urged Palestinians to "confront with all possible means" plans to expand Jewish settlements.

Palestinian President Yasser Arafat's cabinet met in Gaza late on Friday, hours after the Israeli government agreed to grant financial benefits to Jewish settlers in the West Bank, a move the PNA said was a decision to kill off the peace process.

The incentives, which could entice more Israelis to settle in the occupied area, were seen as a strong sign of defiance by right-wing Prime Minister Benyamin Netanyahu to world opposition to his plans to tighten Israel's hold on captured Arab land.

"Israel's measures aim at destroying the peace process and leading the whole region to the edge of an explosion," said a statement released after the Palestinian cabinet meeting.

"The situation is open to dangerous possibilities because of Israel's escalation in its aggressive settlement policies," it said.

(Continued on page 7)

King reaffirms Jordan's rejection of Israeli policy

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein on Saturday reiterated Jordan's rejection of Israel's settlement policy in the occupied Palestinian territories.

Answering a question at an Aqaba press conference (see lead story) about the stalled peace process and the Israeli decision to step up its settlement activities in the occupied territories, the King said: "Our stand regarding this issue is quite clear and it is similar to the world's position, which considers the settlements as illegal and illegitimate.

"As to the peace process, we sincerely hope that all parties will remain committed not only to all agreements signed by previous governments of the region but also to implementing these commitments."

Describing the present situation as difficult and crucial, the King said he hoped that wisdoin and reason and that the spirit of responsibility towards the peoples of this region and the future generations will eventually prevail.

World welcomes Annan as U.N. chief

UNITED — NATIONS (Agencies) — Ghanaian diplomat Kofi Annan's appointment as new U.N. chief won approval from the leading lights in the U.N. Saturday, even from France, whose initial coolness took voting to the brink.

France, the only power to oppose Mr. Annan in a war of nerves with Washington, wanted the outgoing Boutros Ghali for a second term, and pointedly made more of its regret at the Egyptian's forced departure than welcoming the new skipper at the U.N. helm.

President Jacques Chirac telephoned the Egyptian incumbent to send him his "personal message of friendship and solidarity," Mr. Chirac's spokesman Catherine Colonna said.

She said Mr. Chirac, in Dublin for the European Union summit, telephoned the Egyptian to "pay tribute to his work."

Mr. Ghali's mandate runs until Dec. 31. He is the first U.N. chief to leave office after only one term.

France wanted Mr. Ghali for a second term as U.N. chief, but relented Friday in the face of U.S. pressure and the public backing for Mr. Annan by the Organisation of African Unity (OAU).

French Foreign Minister Herve de Charette conceded that France had had "some doubts on the aptitude to undertake reforms of a man who has spent all his career within the United Nations."

He said France's main concern was that the new chief be African, that he would continue reforms



Kofi Annan

and that he be bilingual.

"He's an African, he can speak our language and knows our culture. We have worked with him several times," said Mr. De Charette.

But the French minister regretted "the circumstances that led to the impossibility of reelecting Boutros Ghali. He retains the confidence, the respect and admiration of the French government," the other major powers threw their weight fully behind Mr. Annan, a soft-spoken 58-year-old, who is currently U.N. under-secretary-general for peacekeeping having spent a 30-year career in the U.N. system.

Bill Richardson, President Bill Clinton's nominee to serve as U.N. ambassador, praised the Security Council's choice.

"It's important that we rebuild a constituency in the United States for the U.N. The U.N. is not popular," Mr. Richardson said

(Continued on page 7)

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Egyptian press renews attack on Netanyahu

CAIRO (AFP) — The Egyptian press on Saturday launched a fierce attack on Israeli Prime Minister Benyamin Netanyahu, with one opposition newspaper calling Israelis "pigs and vampires."

"The insolence of Netanyahu reached new heights when he called the Palestinian people animals," said the opposition Al Wafd daily.

It accused the Israeli premier of "pointedly ignoring the massacres of hundreds of Palestinian children by Israelis and the carnage of Cana" in South Lebanon, where more than 100 civilians died in April after Israel shelled a U.N. compound.

"Do not these Israeli vampires deserve to be treated like pigs?" the paper asked.

Al-Wafd said Mr. Netanyahu made the "animal" comments on Wednesday, but there were no reports of such remarks in the Israeli media.

However Mr. Netanyahu did react strongly to the drive-by shooting of two Jewish settlers by suspected Palestinian radicals.

The official Egyptian daily Al Ahram took a more moderate tone, but accused Mr. Netanyahu of deliberately ruining relations with Egypt.

"Israel has started a premeditated policy consisting of burning its bridges, its confidence and its communication with Egypt," said the paper in an editorial entitled: "The illusions of Netanyahu."

"The goal of this campaign of lies is clear: it is aimed at pushing the Egyptians to pressure the Palestinians to accept Israeli conditions on Hebron," the paper said.

"Netanyahu is certainly capable of killing off the peace process, but he is incapable of reducing Egypt's role (in the process) or to stop it defending the rights of Palestinians," it added.

A second Al Ahram editorial warned Israel that it would never achieve its goal of real security or "the respect of any peace accord as long as it thinks it can marginalise Egypt."

The government Al Gumhuriya newspaper accused Mr. Netanyahu of being an "amateur" who "had launched himself into the peace process with the ideas of a man of war."

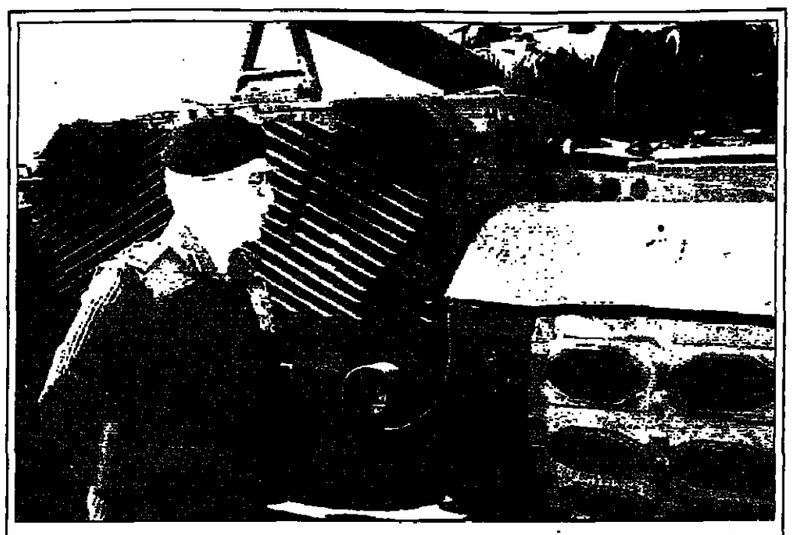
Egyptian-Israeli relations have become increasingly tense in recent months, with Israeli leaders repeatedly expressing concern at the virulent attacks on Mr. Netanyahu and his hardline policies in the Egyptian press.

The row flared again this week, with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on Wednesday angrily insisting that Egypt had to be "the cornerstone of the peace process," and daring Israel to "show us what they can do without Egypt."

But Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy on Thursday ruled out an active role for Egypt in Israeli-Palestinian negotiations on Israel's long-delayed withdrawal from the west bank town of Hebron.

The Jewish state has also turned down a shuttle mission by Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa between the Israelis and Palestinians aimed at bringing about a solution to the Hebron impasse.

Us-mediated negotiations aimed at forging a solution to Israel's withdrawal from most of Hebron, due to have taken place in March under 1995 autonomy accords, are currently locked in stalemate.



U.S. ASSISTANCE: His Majesty King Hussein on Saturday looks at one of the tanks that were delivered to Jordan as part of American military aid to the Kingdom in a ceremony held at Aqaba (see page one) (photo by Yousef Allan)

Sadeq Al Mahdi sees hope for non-violent change in Sudan

ASMARA (R) — Former Sudanese Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi, who went into exile this week, said on Friday he still hoped for the non-violent removal of the Islamic government in Khartoum.

"I hope for a popular uprising, eventually with military support. But it could be possible, in the eleventh hour, to elbow this regime out without violence," Mr. Mahdi told Reuters.

"My departure is another chance to solve it peacefully — they (the government) will have to respond," he said in an interview in Asmara, Eritrea's capital.

Mr. Mahdi and his entourage arrived here by road on Wednesday after he decided to abandon his efforts to oppose President Omar Hassan Al Bashir's government from inside Sudan.

Mr. Mahdi said he left his house in Khartoum last Monday after deciding on Dec. 5 to go into exile. He said the group travelled overland in five cars, taking 12 hours to reach the border with Eritrea.

General Bashir, who overthrew Mr. Mahdi's democratically elected government in a bloodless coup in 1989, says he is not frightened by Mr. Mahdi's decision to join the Eritrea-based Sudanese opposition.

The Sudanese news agency (SUNA) on Thursday quoted Gen. Bashir as saying Mr. Mahdi's "joining of the so-called opposition would not frighten the revolution and would not affect its adherence to its civilisational orientation (Islamic law)". The National Democratic Alliance (NDA), an armed coalition that has started attacking Sudan, is based in Eritrea.

Largely Christian Eritrea has backed the NDA because it says Sudan's islamic government is trying to destabilise the region.

Mahdi, great-grandson of the Sudanese Mr. Mahdi who rebelled against Egyptian imperialism in the 1880s, is a towering figure in Sudanese politics as head of the Umma, the largest party, and spiritual leader of the Ansar or Mahdist movement.

He told Reuters on Friday that Eritrea played no part in his flight and said he would soon leave Asmara.

"I will not stay. I will leave eritrea for other places. First I will go to the neighbouring countries. Then Washington, London, saudi Arabia, Jordan, and Egypt."

He said he will also hold talks with the Arab League, the Organisation of African Unity and the United Nations.

Asked if he thought the NDA, a coalition of about ten opposition groups of differing religions and political tendencies, could stay united if it took power, Mr. Mahdi said:

"The NDA's journey is up to the end of this regime. They are not talking about a Catholic marriage for life. They want to oust the regime, and bring peace. They will be legitimate up to the first general election. Then it is up to the people.

More killed as fighting continues in Mogadishu

MOGADISHU (AFP) — Three more people were killed and five wounded Saturday in fighting between clan militias in south Mogadishu, witnesses reported, bringing the death toll since the battles started on Thursday night to at least 21.

Heavy shelling started before dawn, residents said.

Eleven of those killed Friday were civilians, some hit by stray rounds far from the fighting.

The fighting is pitching the militiamen of Musse Sudi Yalahow, who holds the enclave of Medina, and those of Osman Hassan Ali "Ato," who holds another section of south Mogadishu against the militiamen of warlord Hussein Mohammad Aideed.

It was in Medina that Aideed's father, General Mohammed Farah Aideed, was fatally wounded in a battle on July 24. He died on August 1.

An Aideed militia commander told AFP that his men had captured an armoured personnel carrier from Mr. Yalahow's men, the Italian-made vehicle had been captured from government forces in Somalia's civil war which led to the overthrow of dictator Mohammad Siad Barre in 1991, and kept hidden from U.S. and U.N. troops who arrived here to help famine victims but became embroiled in the clan wars.

Mr. Yalahow told journalists Friday that his men had captured a "technical" pick-up truck with a anti-aircraft gun mounted on the tray.

He said then that seven of his militiamen had been killed, but neither the Osman Ato or the Aideed faction have given their casualty figures.

The militiamen were using artillery guns, recoilless rifles, rocket-propelled grenades and heavy machine-guns.

Khamenei warns U.S. against attacking Iran

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran's spiritual leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei on Saturday warned that his country would respond forcefully to any attack on it by the United States.

"Foreigners must not think they can foster insecurity in Iran, and at the same time maintain security in the region," said Ayatollah Khamenei in a speech to commanders of the Pasdaran, or guards of the revolution.

"If the satans do something like this, the people of Iran will not let the source of the blows escape without a reply," he said, in an allusion to the United States, which is always referred to as satan in official terminology.

Ayatollah Khamenei, whose speech was carried on state radio, added that "everything shows that the American government is thinking of planning a blow against Iran, but it should have learned its lesson from past failure and now know the Iranian people".

"The day when Iran has its security is the day when the Persian Gulf region will also have its security," he added.

The Los Angeles Times reported earlier this week that U.S. officials were considering retaliating against Iran if they accept the Saudi theory that Saudi Shiites were responsible for the June 25 truck bombing in Dhahran that killed 19 air force personnel.

The Washington Post said Wednesday that Saudi Arabia has given the U.S. government evidence that the bombing in Dhahran, in eastern Saudi Arabia, was carried out by Saudi Shiite extremists trained and backed by Iran.

However, the report was played down by the White House which said the investigation into the bombing had not reached any conclusions.

Iran on Thursday denied involvement in the Saudi bombing.

"We reject in the strongest terms this new campaign against Iran which is aimed at manipulating American public opinion," Iran's mission at the United Nations in New York said, in a statement carried by the official news agency IRNA.

Iran plans football tournament on Abu Musa

DUBAI (R) — Iran said Saturday it plans to organise a football tournament on the Gulf island of Abu Musa, which is at the centre of a dispute with neighbouring United Arab Emirates (UAE) since 1992, Iran's state-run news agency IRNA reported.

IRNA, monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), quoted the island's governor, Hasan Riza'i, as saying that the choice of Abu Musa for the second year running was for its "favourable climate."

The agency did not give more details, but sources familiar with Iran's soccer competitions said only local teams from neighbouring towns will participate.

Gulf Arab leaders earlier this week called on Iran to end its "occupation" of the three Gulf islands of Abu Musa, Greater Tunb and Lesser Tunb, claimed by the UAE. Iran says its sovreignty over the islands is not negotiable.

Bahrain security court adjourns trial of Qataris

MANAMA (Agencies) — The state security court on Saturday adjourned until Wednesday the case of a Qatari man and woman accused of spying for their country.

The trial of the two has worsened already strained relations between Bahrain and Qatar. The two small Arab Gulf states have been locked in a territorial dispute over a chain of islands and a strip of land.

The special tribunal that opened Dec. 4 has been closed to the press. A government source said the three-judge court will meet again on Wednesday.

All documents requested by the defence should be presented at the next session, the source said, speaking on condition of anonymity. He declined to provide any information about Saturday's proceedings.

Fahd Hamad Abdullah Al Bakker, 28, and Salwa Jassim Mohammad Fakhri, 33, could face the death sentence if convicted.

Bahrain officials have said the two confessed to an investigating judge before the trial that they collected information about Bahrain's military and its two-year spate of civil unrest.

Qatar denies its any spying was conducted on behalf of the Qatar government. It has warned Qataris to be cautious when visiting Bahrain.

In a recent interview with Bahrain's state-run television, Mr. Bakker identified himself as an agent for the qatari intelligence and asked Bahrain's emir, Sheikh Isa Ben Salman Al Khalifa, for forgiveness. His lawyer, Abdullah Fakhru, told the Associated Press when the trial opened that the information involved in the case was common knowledge and did not amount to military secrets.

The defendants are accused of gathering intelligence for the Qatari government and accepting money from Doha to undermine Bahrain's security. The penalty for spying is either execution or a long prison term. . Last week Qatar accused Bahrain of torturing Mr. Bakker and said the trial "set a dangerous precedent in Gulf ties."

Bahrain has denied Qatar's accusation.

The charges have raised tensions between Bahrain and Qatar, already at loggerheads over a cluster of small islands in the Gulf controlled by Bahrain since the 1930s but also claimed by Qatar.

NEWS IN BRIEF

U.N. to close refugee camp in north Iraq

ANKARA (AFP) — The U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) will soon close a camp in northern Iraq for Kurdish refugees who fled fighting in Turkey between separatist rebels and government forces, officials said Saturday. Turkey has insisted since early 1995 that the Atrush camp be closed, saying it has become a base for Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) forces, which are fighting for a Kurdish homeland in southeastern Turkey. After a series of talks with the Turkish government, the UNHCR agreed to close the camp, and its occupants will begin leaving within 10 days, the officials said. The Atrush camp, more than 150 kilometres from the Turkish-Iraqi border, shelters about 14,000 Kurdish refugees from Turkey who fled the fighting in southeastern Turkey at the end of 1994. Turkey attributed the refugees' displacement to "PKK pressure." The United Nations put the refugees in the Atrush camp during a general Turkish military offensive against the PKK in March 1995 in northern Iraq. Ankara recently announced it has provided the United Nations with assurances it sought on the refugees' return to Turkey and their security. The returning refugees will be housed by the Turkish red Crescent near Silopi, about 10 kilometres from the border with Iraq, the officials added.

Cyprus planning to buy Russian missiles

NICOSIA (AFP) — The Greek-Cypriot government in Cyprus is negotiating with Russia to buy S-300 ground-to-air missiles, despite strong warnings from Ankara. Yannakis Cassoulides, spokesman for the Greek-Cypriot administration in Nicosia, told state radio late Friday that Cyprus was "negotiating the purchase of S-300 missiles from Russia," but he gave no further details. "Cyprus is an independent state and can decide all matters related to its defence," added Mr. Cassoulides. Turkish Foreign Minister Tansu Ciller is preparing to fly to Moscow next week for talks aimed at persuading Russia to back out of the deal, said the radio. Turkey on Tuesday warned the Cypriot government against "arming heavily", saying it would not allow increased threats against the Turkish Cypriots.

Convicted murderer beheaded in S. Arabia

JEDDAH (AP) — A man convicted of fatally stabbing his wife was beheaded Saturday in southern Saudi Arabia, the 67th execution this year under the kingdom's strict Islamic laws. An Interior Ministry statement said that Jaber Ben Ali Issari was executed in the town of Mahael, in the southern Asir province, after he was found guilty of murdering his wife. The Arabic-language statement did not give Issari's nationality or provide any other details. A record 192 people were beheaded last year in Saudi Arabia.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION
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PROGRAMME TWO
14:05 Jonny Quest
14:30 You Bet Your Life
15:00 Cajou
15:30 Week-Ends Speciaux
16:00 Doc. —World Echo
16:30 ..The Famous Five (Drama)
17:00 News Flash
17:02 Doc. — Our World, Their World
17:15 Doc. — All the Children
18:00 ...Magazine — Faut Pas Rever
19:00 Le Journal
19:15 Magazine — Sports Et Musique
19:30 News Headlines
19:35 Fresh Prince of Bel-Air
20:00 Auto-Classics
20:30 The Album Show
21:10 Doc. — Hold Up the Sun
22:00 News in English
22:25 Drama — Cover
23:15 Miami Vice
23:59 Yes, Minister

PRAYER TIMES

05:00.....Fajr
06:23(Sunrise) Duha
11:30.....Dhuhr
14:15.....'Asr
16:38.....Maghreb
18:00'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweifieh, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church Tel. 632785.
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunication Tel. 637440.
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757.
Terra Sancta Church Tel. 622366
Anglican Church Tel. 652826.
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.
Amman International Church Tel. 827126
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328.
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 845457
The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932.
Church of Nazarene Tel. 675691.
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295
English-speaking
Latin Catholics Parish Tel. 614190.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology
Temperatures are expected to rise slightly with winds variable becoming easterly moderate during the day. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp.
Amman.....05/15
Aqaba.....11/23
Deserts.....03/17
Jordan Valley.....11/22

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 12, Aqaba 21. Humidity readings: Amman 84 per cent, Aqaba 46 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Mukhles Mazahrah 820425
Dr. Wissam Hzayyin 748563
Dr. Munther Al Qraini ..779959
Dr. Abdul Hadi Tayyim 620115
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdows pharmacy 778336
Al Asema pharmacy 637055
Nairoukh pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shmeisani pharmacy 637660
Najib pharmacy 847632

IRBID:
Dr. Ahmad Qanu 281484
Al Quds pharmacy(—)
ZARQA:
Dr. Salah Al Safarini 987565
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre.....637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency.....199
Rescue Police.....192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade.....617101
Blood Bank.....775121
Highway Police.....843402
Traffic Police.....896390
Public Security Dept.....630321
Hotel Complaints.....605800
Price Complaints.....661176
Water & Sewerage Complaints ...897467
Amman Municipality Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone Repairs 623101
Abdali Tel. Repairs.....661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
J. Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Co.....636381
RJ Flight Information ..08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 81381332
Khalidi Maternity..... 6442816
Akileh Maternity.....642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity ...642362
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 607071
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Mushser Hospital 66722?/9
The Islamic, Abdali 666126/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali 66416-4/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 777101/3
Al-Bashir.....775111/26
Army, Marka 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital ...602240/50
Amal Hospital 674155
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery 865199
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital(09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital(09)900560
Ibn Sina Hospital..... (09)986732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital(09)990990
IRBID:
Princess Basma Hospital(02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital(02)272275
Ibn Al Nafees Hospital(02)247100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified. Information on other flights can be supplied on phone 08 (52700)

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
08:15 Bombay (RJ)
08:35 Jeddah (RJ)
08:50 Larnaca (RJ)
09:15 Dhahran, Riyadh (RJ)
09:50 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:05 Beirut (RJ)
10:15 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
16:05 Kuala Lumpur (add) (RJ)
16:45 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
17:05 Brussels, Paris (RJ)
17:45 Madrid, Geneva (RJ)
17:45 London (RJ)
18:00 Jeddah (add) (RJ)
19:30 Frankfurt (RJ)
19:30 Tunis (RJ)
19:35 Vienna (RJ)
19:40 Rome (RJ)
19:50 Athens, Istanbul (RJ)
20:00 Jeddah (add) (RJ)
23:15 Jeddah (add) (RJ)
00:10 Cairo (RJ)

Other Flights
06:20 Tel Aviv (LY)
12:40 Bahrain (GF)
15:20 Moscow (SU)
15:30 Dubai (EK)
20:10 Beirut (ME)
20:30 Cairo (MS)
23:10 Istanbul (TK)
23:50 London, Beirut (BA)
01:25 Amsterdam, Beirut (KL)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
06:20 Beirut (RJ)
09:45 Frankfurt (RJ)
11:00 Tunis (RJ)
11:05 Vienna (RJ)
11:15.....Rome (RJ)
11:30 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
12:00 Jeddah (add) (RJ)
12:15 London (RJ)
12:20 Athens (RJ)
15:00 Jeddah (add) (RJ)
18:00 Jeddah (add) (RJ)
20:10 Cairo (RJ)
20:20 Jakarta (add) (RJ)
20:30 Dubai (RJ)
20:40 Damascus (RJ)
21:00 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
21:00.....Jeddah (RJ)
22:45 Bangkok (RJ)
22:45 Sanaa (RJ)
23:59 Singapore (add) (RJ)
00:15 Singapore, Jakarta (RJ)
03:00 Jeddah (add) (RJ)

Royal Wings (RW) Flights
09:20 Aquba (RW)
18:55 Tel Aviv (RW)

Other Flights
06:30 London (KJ)
07:00 Beirut (ME)
07:15 Tel Aviv (LY)
07:35 Damascus, London (BA)
13:30 Doha (GF)
16:35 Moscow (SU)
21:25.....Cairo (MS)

Royal Wing (RW) Flights
09:50 Aqaba (RW) (departing from Marka Airport)
20:30 Aquba (RW)

HIJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amman 8:00 a.m. every Monday
Arr. Damascus 5:00 p.m. every Monday
Dep. Damascus 7:30 a.m. every Sunday
Arr. Amman 5:00 p.m. every Sunday

MARKET PRICES

Upperflower price in fils per kg.

Apple.....700/500
Banana.....550/550
Banana (imported).....850/600
Cabbage.....70/50
Carrot 270/150
Cauliflower.....110/80
Cucumber (large) 100/80
Cucumber (small) 220/150
Eggplant.....150/80
Garlic 800/550
Grapes.....500/350
Grape fruit 160/100
Lemon 400/200
Marrow (large).....80/40
Marrow (small) 140/100
Onion (green) 180/120
Onion (dry) 180/120
Orange 580/400
Pepper (hot) 250/150
Pepper (sweet) 250/150
Potato 290/170
Spinach 130/90
String Bean.....400/350
Tomato 140/100

Prince meets with American tour operators

AMMAN (J.T.) — HRH Prince Faisal Ben Al Hussein Saturday met with a group of visiting American tour operators and stated that the Kingdom is modernising and upgrading services for tourists as well as building new facilities in preparation for large groups of visitors.

The Prince described Jordan as a home for different cultures throughout historical eras and further stated that the Kingdom holds unique attractions for tourists interested in such historical sites as well as those seeking curative services.

He said that since the conclusion of the 1994 Jordan-Israel peace treaty, the Kingdom has witnessed an increase in its tourism industry with large groups coming here from all parts of the world thus prompting the government to increase services offered to such visitors.

According to the Ministry of Tourism, last year Jordan was visited by more than a million tourists, bringing $700 million in revenues to the Kingdom.



HRH Prince Faisal Bin Al Hussein (file photo)

But Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Saleh Irsheidat recently affirmed that tourism in Jordan and the whole region has been on the decline for the past months due to the political developments in Palestine, Lebanon and the Gulf region.

Prince Faisal told the tour operators that Jordan has been linking tourism with development projects benefiting the local communities, citing as an example the development plans for the Bani Hamida tribe near Madaba, south of Amman to train local women and that they now produce handicrafts, many of which are sold to visitors to Jordan.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said that several American tourist organisations are currently involved in the preparation of programmes designed to increase the volume of groups visiting the Middle East as well as to organise groups visiting from the United States.

RJ debates global market challenges

AMMAN (Petra) — Royal Jordanian (RJ) Saturday opened a workshop to discuss air transport industry challenges before an annual airline's sales officers meeting on Monday.

RJ's Vice President for Marketing and Sales Majdi Sabri opened the two-day workshop which, he said, will discuss ways of dealing with challenges in global markets, competition issues, tallying operational spending and improving performance.

He said that workshop participants will debate dilemmas facing the air transport industry and propose solutions.

Following Monday's meeting, which will be held at the Amman Marriott Hotel, Royal Jordanian President and Chief Executive Officer Nader Dahabi will address a press conference to discuss the airline's projections for the coming year, according to an RJ statement.

Dr. Sabri described the workshop and the subsequent Monday meeting as designated to discuss the economies of chartered flights, pricing strategies and a general plan for the sales offices.

The workshop, he added, will be addressed by a British expert on air transport.

65 women prepare for elections in British-sponsored workshop

By Francesca Ciriaci
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — With only a couple of months before the next local elections and less than one year to go for the general elections, Jordanian women are getting ready to face their constituencies with determination and proficiency and gain a more effective role in politics and decision-making.

With training provided by three prominent experts on election campaign management from the United Kingdom (U.K.), more than 65 women, five from each of Jordan's 12 governorates, are going to specialise in how to deal with all aspects of a campaign as candidates, candidate aides and press officers.

Jordanian women have made great strides in all fields of life, but they still need further training in order to enhance their role in the political arena, said HRH Princess Basma on Saturday, during the opening ceremony of a five-day workshop dedicated to women in politics and entitled "Preparing Campaign Teams."

The workshop, organised by the Jordanian National Forum for Women (JNFW) in cooperation with the British embassy and the British Council in Amman, will not only provide potential candidates with the valuable opportunity of sharing the experience of professional campaign managers, but it will also help women enhance their role through training, discussions, and actual participation, Princess Basma said.

Underlining the importance of training in election campaigns and the procedures and approaches practised in this regard, Princess Basma, who chairs the JNFW, pointed out that women have proved their efficiency and active presence in the last municipal elections.

In fact, though only one woman holds a seat in the current Parliament, 10 women, out of 12 women candidates, were elected in the July 1995 municipal elections, including one as a mayor.



HRH Princess Basma Saturday addresses a workshop regarding campaign preparation (Petra photo)

The training team at the workshop is formed by Leslie Abdela, winner of the 1996 U.K. Woman of Europe Award, journalist and broadcaster as well as consultant and advisor on women's development issues, Candy Piercy, federal campaigns, elections and press officer with the British Liberal Democrats, and Jackie Ballard, Council support officer for the Association of Liberal Democrat Councillors and prospective parliamentary candidate in the U.K.

Introducing the main goals of the workshop, Ms. Abdela, who has conducted election campaign training courses in four continents, said "we are not talking about excluding men, but simply about including women...because when men and women work together we can achieve progress with stability."

The fact that four men are taking part in the seminar in support of women's access to the political life, "stems from the strong belief of the complementarity of both men and women who share in building the society through coordinated efforts and balanced roots," Princess Basma noted.

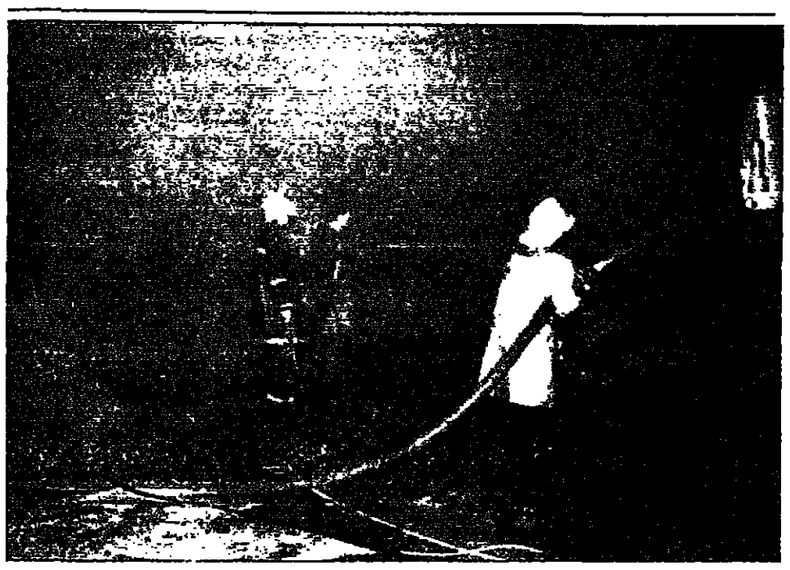
Addressing the opening session, Director of the British Council David Burton and British Ambassador in Amman Peter Hinchcliffe praised Jordan for having taken "the lead among the Arab countries in promoting and supporting the role of women."

"Including more women in politics and decision making is both an essential point of the Beijing Conference platform and the national plan," Mr. Hinchcliffe told participants. The Beijing conference was sponsored by the United Nations in the fall of 1995 to focus of a multitude of issues related to the status of women from around the world.

The busy schedule of the five-day workshop, held at Princess Basma Women Resources Centre, includes voter surveys to be carried out by participants, sharing of real life experiences and practice press conferences as well as lectures on how to handle the press a[illegible] prepare press releases and spe[illegible] for radio or television progra.

Elections have provided women with new prospects to upgrade their status and enhance their role and participation not only in Parliament, but also in the local councils, professional associations, non-governmental associations and private firms, stated JNFW head Farah Daghestani.

Stressing the need for women to acquire the skills necessary for the management and implementation of election campaigns, Ms. Daghestani concluded with a strong appeal to Jordanian women to participate actively in the coming parliamentary elections.



Firefighters in the process of putting out blaze Friday night in which a section of the Jordanian Corporation for Manufacturing Cardboard was destroyed (CDD photo)

Fire burns section of factory in Sahab estate

By Rana Husseini
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A huge fire ripped through part of a cardboard factory at Sahab Industrial City in east Amman late Friday night, causing extensive damage to the contents of the factory but no injuries, according to Civil Defence Department (CDD) reports.

A CDD official said it was too early to determine the cause of the blaze which occurred at 10 p.m. and destroyed a section of the Jordanian Corporation for Manufacturing Cardboard.

The blaze destroyed the entire stock of raw material stored in a compartment of the factory, which included newspapers and magazines recycled to produce egg trays, a CDD official said.

Eight CDD fire engines participated in extinguishing the flame in less than half an hour, the official stated.

CDD officials could not give an immediate estimate of losses caused by the fire but said that an investigative committee was formed to look into the cause.

Minister of Interior Awad Khleifat and CDD General Director Major General Theeb Ma'ani supervised the rescue operation, a CDD statement said.

This is the second fire to occur in a factory in Sahab over a two-month period.

On Oct. 18, fire gutted a textile factory causing destruction to the entire plant and losses amounted to more than JD 1.5 million.

A CDD official contacted by the Jordan Times Saturday said that the cause of the textile factory fire, which occurred 50 days ago, was still undetermined and that an investigative committee was examining the incident.

Jordanian-Tunisian committee to meet tomorrow

By Sacha Baggili
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The second session of the Joint Jordanian-Tunisian Higher Committee will convene here Monday to discuss bilateral relations as well as pan-Arab and international issues of common interest.

The committee, which last met in Tunis in April 1995 and which concluded agreements for cooperation in trade, economic, scientific and technical fields, will be headed by the Tunisian Premier Hamed Qarawi and Jordanian Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti.

The Tunisian delegation to arrive in Amman with Dr. Qawari today, includes Minister of Transport Sadeq Rabeh, Saeed Ben Mustafa from the foreign ministry and a team of experts and entrepreneurs.

The joint committee aims to encourage businesspersons and exporters in both countries to "double their efforts and make use of the positive atmosphere provided for them by the trust and cooperation which exist between the leaders of Jordan and Tunisia," Abed Razaq Shouari, press spokesman to the Tunisian embassy, told the Jordan Times.

"We are all confident that the results of this second round will enforce the bilateral relations of the two countries to fulfill the wishes of both King Hussein and President Zein Al Abideen Ben Ali," he added.

Discussions during the three-day meeting will also address issues related to the Middle East peace process as well as Jordanian and Tunisian relations with the European Union.

WHAT'S GOING ON

CHRISTMAS PLAY

* "The Star of Hope" at the Church of Redeemer, Jabal Amman, First Circle at 7:30 p.m. (Tel. 615790).

EXHIBITIONS

* Painting exhibition by Hind Nasser at the Jordan Arts and Crafts Centre/Artisana, Jabal Amman (Tel. 647858), until Jan. 10. Also displaying a regular exhibition of arts and crafts and Christmas items.
* "Special show and sale of Christmas crafts at the Jordan Crafts Centre (Alaydi), Jabal Amman, Second Circle (Tel. 644555), until Dec. 31.
* Water colour works by Jabbar Mijbil entitled "Declared Hunches" at Orfali Art Gallery, Umm Utheina, until Dec. 25.
* Works by Spanish painter Clara Amado at Instituto Cervantes, Jabal Amman until 15 Jan.
* Works by ten contemporary Indonesian artists entitled "From Scripts to Abstraction" at the Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts (open daily except Tuesdays), until Jan. 12.
*Display of Christmas gift items at the Bani Hamida House, Jabal Amman (Tel. 658696/7) until Jan. 2.
* Works by Rula Al Shuqairi at Darat Al Funun, Jabal Weibdeh, until Jan. 4. Also displaying works by contemporary Arab artists.
* Works on the life of André Marlaux at the French Cultural Centre, Jabal Weibdeh, until Dec. 24.
*Graphics by computer exhibition by Ismail Shammout at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation, Jabal Amman, until Dec. 24.

Centre for Special Education bemoans lack of funds

By Nadia Mukhlis
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Every morning, Khaled goes somewhere special to learn new skills, but for those who come behind him, the future could be less certain.

Coming from an indigent family and suffering from a mental disability since childhood, Khaled, now 23, has been a regular student along with more that 150 other students at the Centre for Special Education (CSE).

Today, after more than 15 years at the CSE, Khaled excels in woodwork and has taken up his role as a productive member of society.

The centre is among tens of special institutions that cater to the mentally disabled, but finding the funds to keep such an endeavour alive is proving difficult.

On the positive side, the emergence of such centres reflects the growing awareness in the Kingdom of the need to help the disabled integrate into the community.

The Centre for Special Education was established in 1974 by the Young Muslim Women's Association (YMWA), a non-profit voluntary organisation opened in 1972. The YMWA is chaired by HRH Princess Sarvath Al Hassan.

"Disabled people are human beings, with feelings and abilities, less than the normal person but still enough to be productive and obtain roles in the community," CSP Director Ghusoon Al Kareh said.

"The community has to focus on those abilities and offer a chance to the disabled to live a dignified and productive life," she told the Jordan Times.

The centre started with 18 students; in 1981, designated as "The Year of the Disabled," the number rose to 80 students. CSP now serves 154 students.

It offers comprehensive services to children in three stages: the pre-school section, the primary school and the pre-vocational section (which trains students 16 years-old and over in horticulture, window-washing, domestic science, wood-working, weaving and ceramics), Ms. Kareh said.

The success of the pre-vocational section led to the establishment of the so-titled Sheltered Workshops in 1987, designed to provide employment for graduates of all institutions for the disabled.

A total of 112 graduates of the Centre for Special Education, which employs 32 teachers, are now employed in their craft through the workshop, Ms. Kareh said.

But, last May, the assembly section in the shelter was shut down because of lack of funds, she said..

"After 22 years of hard work, we had to shut down this section, eliminating more chances for graduates of such institutions to find work," Ms. Kareh said.

More than 65 per cent of the students' families are unable to pay their fees, and the centre depends on donations, subsidises tuition fees, a teacher said.

The government is "very generous with donations," but individual donors are not helping those associations enough, Ms. Kareh said, stating that Arab societies in general still do not fully appreciate the abilities of the disabled and the roles they can play.

The centre needs JD 200,000 a year to continue functioning and expanding its programmes, but it is receiving much less than that and is forced to cut down on some services, Ms. Kareh stated.

The CSP curriculum emphasises developing self-awareness, the acquisition of practical skills, social interaction and adaptation to the environment which is achieved through encouraging a friendly atmosphere, a teacher said.

Parental involvement is crucial to ensure the success of the training, and therefore the centre offers open Mondays during which parents can attend classes with their children, CSP teachers told the Jordan Times.

The centre also works to upgrade the skills of staff members by sending them to special training courses and observation programmes abroad, Ms. Kareh said. Foreign volunteers also come to Jordan to help in this area annually, she added.

But teachers at the centre say they are underpaid although their salaries are 15 per cent higher than average teachers. "The efforts we give are much higher than the efforts teachers give in ordinary schools" one teacher said, and others concurred.

According to Ms. Kareh, the centre plans to improve its services in the future to accommodate larger numbers of students, enrich its training programmes and raise the standards of education .But to achieve these goals, Ms. Kareh said, all centres for the disabled require more funds.

Ms. Kareh also said that legislation must be amended to give the disabled more opportunities in society.

She said that even though the law gives rights to the disabled much more is needed in order to ensure equality among members of society.

"We call on all individual and community donors to help, however little, because the little you give, means a lot to us," Ms. Kareh said.

Salt murder to end in execution

By Rana Husseini
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A 30-year-old man, convicted of robbing, killing and mutilating a man in Salt in August last year is scheduled to be executed today in Swaqa prison at dawn, raising the number of national executions to 10 this year.

On Thursday, 22 year-old Mohammad Na'el Darwish Majdalawi, convicted of molesting and strangling a nine-year-old boy in Ghor Safi, was put to death at the same prison.

Kayed Ahmad Khreisat was sentenced to death by the Amman Criminal Court on July 25, after he was found guilty of killing Mohammad Ensour, 32, in his house in Salt on Aug. 14.

According to court documents, Mr. Khreisat claimed to have been helping Mr. Ensour obtain a taxi licence but actually defrauded him of JD 700 and "wanted to get rid of him because [Mr. Ensour] kept asking for his money."

On the morning of Aug. 14, Mr. Khreisat asked Mr. Ensour to meet him at his house to finish the necessary papers.

Mr. Khreisat then jumped at Mr. Ensour, strangled him with a rope, stole JD 2,000 and some documents, court transcripts said.

In his confession in March, Mr. Khreisat told the court that he did not intend to kill Mr. Ensour, but only strangled him to discontinue a brawl which had erupted between them, adding that he wrapped a rope around the man's neck to restrain him.

"But he fell suddenly and I tried to wake him using cologne and onions but he did not wake up and I was frightened as he died in my house, so the only solution was to cut him up into pieces," Mr. Khreisat told the court.

Court transcripts said that Mr. Khreisat borrowed a saw from his neighbour, cut Mr. Ensour's body into pieces, placed it in boxes and dumped it in several areas around Salt.

A royal decree was issued last month, approving of the Court of Cassation's ratification to execute Mr. Khreisat in October.

Last year, eight people were put to death in the Kingdom for various crimes.

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Zaire force starts closing down

KAMPALA (R) — Canadian units making up a multinational force for eastern Zaire started closing down operations Saturday after the United Nations ordered them to pull out.

The 350-strong Canadian contingent in Uganda and Rwanda swifly prepared to pull out and end their central Africa mission, which never really got off the ground.

"The operation is closing down fast," said Canadian military spokesman navy Lieutenant Charles Brown in its Kampala headquarters. "The command and control function is shutting down branch by branch."

He said the first Canadian personnel would leave by plane from Entebbe Airport, Uganda, Monday, some more Wednesday and the last would be out of the region by the end of December.

"A decision was taken in New York formally closing out the mission...We we are pulling out of Kigali in the next few days," said Major Rob Babiuk, a Canadian spokesman in Kigali.

"We received word this morning from New York and are packing up," said Maj. Babiuk. "We have 19 people here and everyone will be gone by noon tomorrow except for four of U.S. to tie things up."

The Canadian liaison team arrived in Rwanda on Nov. 17 when the international community was pushing for a multinational force to intervene in eastern Zaire to help aid Rwandan refugees fleeing after a revolt by Zairean rebels.

U.N. special envoy for the Great Lakes region of Africa, Raymond Chretien, said Thursday that the need for a multinational military force had greatly diminished.

He said the Security Council authorised the establishment of the force in mid-November before hundreds of thousands of Rwandan refugees trekked home to Rwanda from Zaire and before it was clear humanitarian organisations could have access to them.

But the European Parliament lashed out Thursday at the international community's delay in sending troops to Zaire to get aid to refugees and urged leaders urgently to discuss the issue.

The Canadians first arrived at Entebbe on Nov. 14 and the force set up its headquarters in Kampala.

Only Canada contributed troops and equipment to the multinational force. The United States, Britain, Italy, Holland, Belgium and South Africa sent liaison officers but did not join.

The force, under the command of Lieutenant-General Maurice Baril, was unable to do much more than coordinate data from aerial searches for refugees and prepare plans for aid airdrops.

"General Baril will come down to Kigali early next week to pay a courtesy call on the government and then we will be out of Rwanda entirely," Maj. Babiuk said.

He said the force's activities, except for packing up and preparing to pull out, had ceased with the New York decision.

The force flew cholera kits and tarpaulins to Tanzania and water bladders, aid supplies, medical kits and communications equipment to Kigali for aid agencies.

It also sent a few officers to rebel-held eastern Zaire to help the U.N. refugee agency track refugee movements. Rwanda however refused to allow the force to be based in Kigali because the Rwandan government held most refugees had returned home.

Meanwhile, hundreds of thousands of Rwandan refugees streamed through northwest Tanzania towards the Rwandan border Saturday at the start of a mass repatriation, the U.N. refugee agency said.

"They are marching from Nyakahura onwards. They are all marching," said Judith Melby, a spokeswoman for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), adding the refugees were headed for the Rwandan border.

Nyakahura is 90 kilometres southeast of Benaco Camp, which is 17 kilometres from the Rwandan border and the largest Rwandan refugee camp in Tanzania. The refugees on the move were from other camps in the area.

"If you look at Rwanda, look at Zaire, you need something to unlock the jam. This (mass movement) is it," Ms. Melby added. Other aid workers confirmed a massive movement towards the border.

The exodus followed talks between camp leaders in Benaco and officials of the Tanzanian government, which says all 540,000 Rwandan Hutu refugees in Tanzania must leave by Dec. 31.

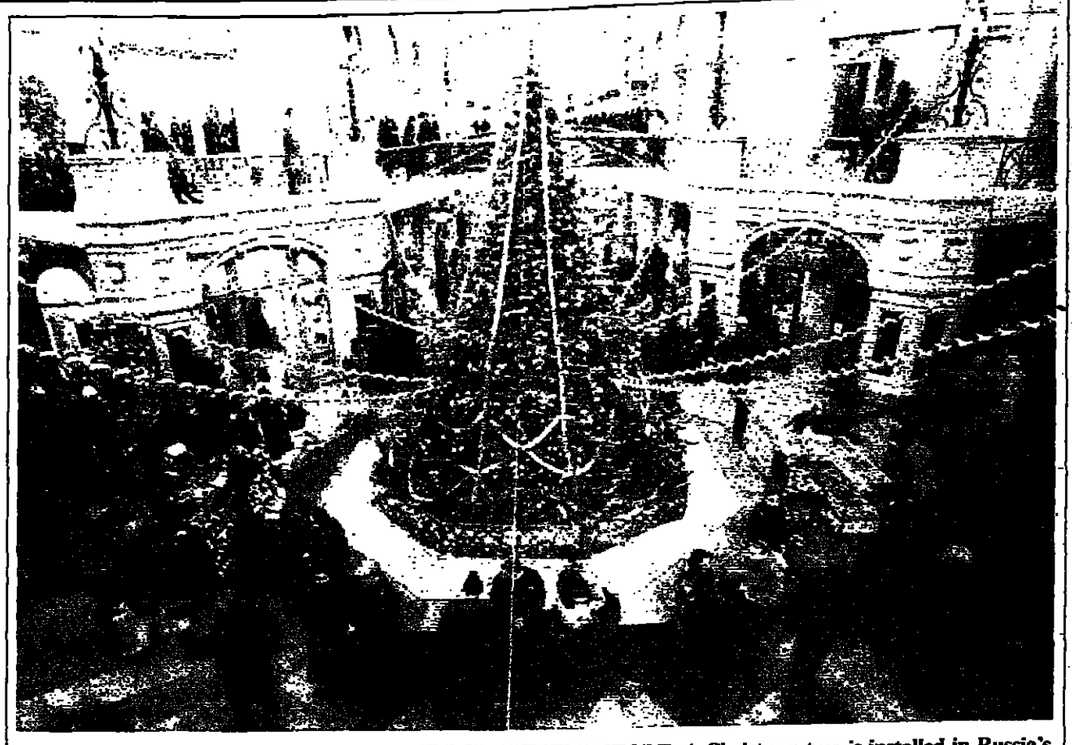
Troops earlier sealed off the refugee camps to push Rwandan refugees to go home and barred journalists and UNHCR officials from the area of the camps.

Aid workers said they feared this block was placed to stop people witnessing any violence during the repatriation of the refugees.

But the U.N. World Food Programme (WFP) earlier reported that more than 100,000 Rwandan refugees were trekking southeast — away from Rwanda — deeper into Tanzania in a column 20 kilometres long, one day after Tanzanian forces turned back hundreds of thousands.

"The column is some 20 kilometres long so we estimate it is probably more than 100,000 people. They have encountered some Tanzanian checkpoints and were urged to turn back but have not so far done so," said WFP spokeswoman Michelle Quintaglie.

She said the column was apparently made up of people fleeing Kitali and Keza camps and forests.



A CHRISTMAS TREE INSIDE GUM STATE DEPARTMENT STORE: A Christmas tree is installed in Russia's most famous GUM State Department Store near Red Square. Fuelled by business interest and the city authorities' desire to foster holiday cheer during the often-dreary month of December, Moscow's 1996 Christmas and New Year's holiday season has been officially extended (Reuters photo)

Muslim militants clash with police in Pakistan

KARACHI, Pakistan (R) — Activists from a militant Sunni Muslim faction pelted police with stones Friday in Karachi, southern Pakistan, during a protest at the appointment of a provincial minister from a minority sect.

About 250 activists of the Sunni Tehrik (Movement) launched their action in a commercial district to protest at a member of the Ahmadi religious sect being included in the Sind provincial government.

Sunni Tehrik and other militant Muslim factions regard the Ahmadi as heretical.

The protesters prayed in the road and then tried to march on the Sind chief minister's house to stage a sit-in, but were forced back by police.

Angry young activists threw stones at the police and smashed about a dozen cars parked nearby. No one was injured.

Sunni Tehrik and other militant Muslim factions were angered by the inclusion of Kanwar Idris as interior and town planning minister in the caretaker provincial cabinet.

Mr. Idris belongs to the Ahmadi community, officially declared to be outside the pale of Islam by parliament in 1974. In 1984 a decree banned Ahmadis from using Islamic forms of worship or describing their places of worship as mosques.

Taleban militia seize Stinger, cache of buried ex-government weapons

KABUL (AFP) — Afghanistan's Taleban militia has seized an American-made Stinger anti-aircraft missile and a large cache of former government weapons that had been buried underground, Kabul officials said Saturday.

Officials at the Taleban-controlled Radio Shariat told AFP that the shoulder-fired missile was captured Friday at Qargah Centre west of Kabul.

The U.S. government gave Stingers to the Mujahedeen during the latter years of their 1979-89 Jihad (holy war) against occupying Soviet forces to counter Soviet airpower.

During the presidency of Burhanuddin Rabbani, who fled north when the Taleban took Kabul on Sept. 27, a black market for Stingers grew from unconfirmed reports that the United States would buy back unused missiles for $100,000 each.

Radio Shariat also reported the capture of a large cache of munitions last Thursday from the house of Mr. Rabbani's former minister of water and power, in a village north of Kabul.

"This was a vast quantity of arms — enough to fill 10 truckloads," said a radio official.

The arms cache was reported to have been buried underground and protected by a belt of anti-personnel mines, which had to be cleared.

The assorted cache contained AK-47 assault rifles, anti-aircraft heavy machineguns, recoilless rifles and anti-personnel mines.

Telephone communications eqpipment was also unearthed in the haul. Excavation was still continuing in the area, the official said.

These cache was located well behind the frontlines where the fundamentalist militia is battling a coalition of anti-Taleban alliance.

China sentences dissidents to hard labour

BEIJING (R) — China has sentenced two veteran democracy activists to hard labour for up to three years, a fellow dissident said Saturday.

Authorities in Taiyuan in central China's Shanxi province sentenced Fu Guoyong to three years of reeducation through labour, the dissident told Reuters by telephone.

Fellow activist Chen Ping, who had worked with Mr. Fu on pro-democracy tracts, had been sentenced to one year of labour reform, said the dissident who asked not to be identified.

"The reason was because they published articles abroad about democracy," said the dissident. "They just wrote some articles. There really was no reason for this."

Authorities had branded the essays counter-revolutionary, said a statement by the Information Centre of Human Rights and Democratic Movement in China.

Taiyuan Police detained Mr. Fu, 29, in late July for what they said were illegal political activities.

Mr. Chen, 45, had been arrested in Taiyuan in August and was sentenced together with Mr. Fu, the source said, adding he did not know when the sentences had been passed.

Police in Taiyuan contacted by telephone declined to comment on the cases. Family members were not available.

Mr. Fu moved to Taiyuan in late June, complaining of repeated harassment by police in Hangzhou City in the eastern province of Zhejiang, where he had been living with his wife.

Mr. Fu previously served two years in a labour camp for his role in the student-led demonstrations in Beijing's Tiananmen Square that were crushed by the military with heavy loss of life on June 4, 1989.

Police detained Mr. Fu for more than a month in December 1995 after he, along with dissidents Wang Donghai and Chen Longde, wrote a letter calling for the release of Wei Jingsheng, regarded as the father of China's modern democracy movement.

Mr. Fu also joined in an appeal with Mr. Wang and Mr. Chen Longde to China's parliament demanding the release of those jailed for their involvement in the movement.

Court defers Bhutto case against ouster

ISLAMABAD (R) — A legal action by sacked Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto to have her government restored was deferred by the Supreme Court Saturday.

The court said it would first consider petitions challenging the controversial eighth amendment, used by President Farooq Leghari to dismiss the National Assembly (lower house) and Ms. Bhutto's government on disputed charges of corruption and misrule.

"We have decided to take up cases on the eighth amendment first as we want to first dispose of the controversy on it," Chief Jus-tice Sajjad Ali Shah dec-lared.

"We know that other cases are equally important inc-luding Benazir Bhutto's case," the Associated Press of Pakistani (APP) quoted Justice Shah, who was heading a seven-member bench, as saying.

Shah said the court was conscious of the time factor involved in Ms. Bhutto's case in view of elections set for Feb. 3. "We will dispose of it...expeditiously," he added.

Ms. Bhutto's lawyer Aitzaz Ahsan, who is asking the Supreme Court to res-tore the ousted government and National Assembly, said: "We bow before the decision of the court."

The court decided to amalgamate all petitions challenging the article, dating from the martial law era, used by Mr. Leghari to sack Ms. Bhutto and dissolve the National Assembly.

The eighth amendment was inserted into the constitution in 1985 by former military ruler General Muhammad Zia-Ul-Haq.

A lawyer for one of the petitioners Mehmud Achak-zai, a deputy in the defunct National Assembly, said the eighth amendment had removed the sovereignty of parliament.

He argued that it gave enormous discretionary po-wers to one person, the pre-sident, to dissolve the lower house and dismiss an elected government without be-ing held accountable to the people and without losing his own office.

Mr. Leghari, picked as Ms. Bhutto's presidential nominee after the 1993 election, said after taking office that he would never use his powers to dismiss an elected government.

Now the president, a former member of Ms. Bhut-to's Pakistan People's Party, says he acted in the national interest.

12 killed in Algerian village

ALGIERS (AFP) — Twelve villagers from Moulay Karbi, near the south-western Algerian town of Saida, have been killed by Islamic guerrillas, the daily Al Watan reported Saturday.

Eight victims were "finished off with a machine-gun" while four others were found 15 kilometres away. Two of them had been decapitated with an axe, the paper said.

The paper quoted witnesses who said the 12 villagers had gone to claim back a flock of sheep which had been stolen from the village by the 30-strong band of guerrillas, who had already burned down a nearby farm.

Security forces who combed the area after Wednesday's massacre found the heads of the two decapitated villagers and stolen goods in the gang's hideout.

Also Wednesday, 20 bus passengers were killed by gunmen at Benkhelil, 40 kilometres south of Algiers, taking the number of civilians to be killed in a month to more than 150.

Last Monday five people, three of them young men who had just finished their national service, were assassinated in Kolea, around 40 kilometres west of Algiers, according to press reports.

Conscripts are a prime target of Muslim extremists at war with the secular authorities since the cancellation of the second round of general elections the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) was poised to win in 1992.

TWA crash 'consistent' with fuel explosion

WASHINGTON (R) — The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) said Friday evidence from the wreckage of TWA Flight 800 was "consistent" with a fuel tank explosion, and it proposed new steps to prevent fuel from reaching flash point.

The board said that reconstruction of the plane showed the Boeing 747's centre wing's partially full fuel tank to be deformed "consistent with an explosion originating within the tank."

But it stopped short of blaming mechanical reasons for the July 17 crash that killed all 230 people on board.

It said in a statement that parts of the wreckage pulled up from the ocean bottom off New York's Long Island showed no evidence of a bomb or missile.

However, it added, "the investigation into what might have provided the source of ignition of the fuel-air mixture (including a bomb or missile) in the cwt (centre wing tank) is continuing."

The board made an urgent recommendation to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) that it issue an airworthiness regulation to assure that fuel-air mixtures in planes do not rise to flash points.

It also called for design modifications, such as pumping nitrogen into partially full fuel tanks, where the fuel-air mixture is more likely to rise to a flash point, or requiring insulation between the tanks and heat-generating equipment, such the air conditioners in the case of flight 800.

The FAA said it would review urgently the board's recommendations and respond promptly.

Boeing said it would comply with the recommendations once issued by the FAA, adding that "our position is any time safety is concerned, we prefer to go on the side of caution and we will take whatever actions are necessary to support any of the directives that come down from the FAA."

The Paris-bound TWA flight exploded shortly after takeoff from New York's Kennedy Airport and plunged into the Atlantic. Navy salvage crews have recovered more than 90 per cent of the plane's wreckage.

Another recommendation to the FAA was for a rule to require an appropriate amount of fuel be kept in the centre wing tank of the B-747, noting that the vapours in a partially full tank can more easily rise and ignite.

There should be proper monitoring and maintenance of the tank's temperature, the board said.

It said that hot air from the air conditioning units just beneath the centre fuel tank of Flight 800 may have raised the temperature of the fuel to flash point, but that it was not known what touched off the ignition.

Investigators in the five months since the crash have weighed signs that mechanical failure, a bomb or a missile from a ship or plane may have destroyed the plane.

But in recent weeks, as they salavaged more and more of the plane's remains form the ocean's bottom and found no bomb evidence, they began to lean toward mechanical failure.

Clinton names Richardson as U.N. envoy; announces economic advisers

WASHINGTON (R) — President Bill Clinton Friday named two longtime friends and allies to his cabinet, saying he would nominate Representative Bill Richardson to be his new U.N. ambassador and William Daley to be commerce secretary.

Mr. Richardson, a seven-term Democratic veteran of the House of Representatives who has built a formidable reputation as a diplomatic troubleshooter, was someone "who can not only talk but also act effectively," Mr. Clinton said.

He praised Mr. Daley, who led the 1993 drive for approval of the North American Free Trade Agreement and more recently orchestrated the Chicago democratic convention in August, as "a man of rare effectiveness."

At the crowded, stuffy news conference which had a moment of drama when Mr. Daley fainted and fell off the stage, Mr. Clinton also named White House aide Gene Sperling to head the National Economic Council (NEC) and said he wanted acting U.S. Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky to have permanent status.

All but Mr. Sperling require Senate confirmation, and initial reaction in the Republican-led body to Mr. Clinton's latest flurry of appointments was cautious.

Mr. Clinton also kept several administration holdovers on his second-term team, announcing that Attorney General Janet Reno, Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin, Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Carol Browner and White House Budget Director Franklin Raines would all be retained.

He named Daniel Tarullo, who had been in the running to direct the NEC, as his international economic adviser.

The flurry of appointments still left a number of other vacancies to be filled, including the top jobs at the Departments of Labour, Transportation, Energy and Housing, as well as his chairman of the president's Council of Economic Advisers. Mr. Clinton hopes to complete his team by Christmas.

Mr. Richardson, 49, has shown a knack for negotiating the release of Americans held prisoner abroad. Mr. Clinton pointed out that just this week Mr. Richardson "was huddled in a rebel chieftain's hut in Sudan, eating barbecued goat and negotiating the freedom of three hostages."

At the United Nations he would succeed Madeleine Albright, whom Mr. Clinton has nominated to be his next secretary of state.

But a spokesman for conservative Sen. Jesse Helms, who chairs the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said Mr. Richardson would face tough questioning on U.N. reform.

"The confirmation process is not going to be a rubber stamp process," spokesman Mark Thiessen said.

Mr. Daley, 48, is part of a powerful Chicago political family that has produced two city mayors including the current one, his brother Richard. A lawyer and longtime Clinton political ally who was bitterly disappointed when he was passed over for the cabinet in 1992, Mr. Daley gave tance remarks.

Students quiet; tanks remain in Rangoon

RANGOON (R) — Burma's military government Saturday kept army tanks in front of Rangoon city hall and armoured cars in other spots although there were no signs of fresh student unrest, witnesses and diplomats said.

Official media in editorials urged students, who launched major anti-government street protests last week, to be vigilant against elements attempting to use them in a bid to grab political power in the country.

Most roads near troubled Yangon University and the Yangon Institute of Technology, which were closed after thousands of students from the two universities staged the demonstrations, were reopened Saturday, witnesses and diplomats told Reuters.

Only sections of University Avenue, where opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi lives in a lakeside residence, and roads near the Institute of Medicine in central Rangoon remained closed.

Medical trainees at the institute were the last group of students to stage peaceful rallies earlier this week. They had shouted anti-government slogans inside their campus a few days ago but did not take to the streets.

Diplomats said the presence of tanks and armoured cars was intended as a warning against further anti-government activity, which has slowed since the crackdown by the ruling State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC).

The SLORC threw a tight security net around the city and closed universities to break student attempts to mobilise colleagues and hit the streets.

The recent student protests were the biggest seen in Rangoon since the pro-democracy uprisings of 1988 that the military crushed, leaving thousands dead or in jail.

The SLORC has been criticised by the United States and the European Union for its tough stance on student protests. Thursday, the United Nations rebuked the government for human rights violations and urged it to release political prisoners.

The SLORC has also asked Ms. Suu Kyi, who says she has no links with the student protesters, to remain at her residence until the situation normalised. She has complied but expressed displeasure at the situation.

The SLORC also crossed swords with the United States Thursday, charging its top diplomat in Rangoon with interfering in Burma's internal affairs by trying to see Ms. Suu Kyi despite her virtual confinement.

A government spokesman said Friday that the move was a provocation aimed at preparing the ground for U.S. sanctions on Burma.

More than 860 students were detained after last week's protests. They were later freed.

But the government still holds some members of Ms. Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy (NLD) party. It has accused the NLD members along with Communists and the exiled student movement of instigating the student demonstrations.

EU leaders seek to exploit Milosevic olive branch

DUBLIN (R) — European Union leaders, anxious to avoid an explosion in Yugoslavia, sought Saturday to exploit an olive branch offer by Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic to send observers to investigate disputed local elections.

At their Dublin summit, the leaders set conditions for an international team to verify the regularity of last month's polls, including the right to re-run them under international supervision, mediator Carl Bildt said Saturday.

Under pressure from daily mass street protests over alleged fraud in the municipal elections, Milosevic offered Friday to allow the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) to send a delegation to check the fairness of the poll.

A declaration adopted at the summit called on Yugoslavia to "demonstrate full respect for human and minority rights and the observance of democratic norms" and noted with interest Belgrade's invitation of OSCE observers.

"The OSCE will wish to consider the conditions for such a mission, notably in relation to the right to recommend a reversal of the annulments or a rerun of some elections," the EU draft said.

The United States Friday branded Milosevic's offer a whitewash, but the Europeans were more inclined to use it as a potential lever for a democratic transition in Belgrade.

Mr. Bildt said Mr. Milosevic would have to commit himself to allow media freedom and begin a dialogue with all political forces to establish democratic rules for presidential and parliamentary elections due in 1997.

The U.N.'s high representative in Bosnia said Serbia was facing economic collapse and no government in Europe could hide any longer behind the "old-style" argument of non-interference in the internal affairs of states.

"We have no interest whatsoever in an economic and social collapse of Serbia," Mr. Bildt said, but he added: "There is no way that Serbia can remain an enclave (in Europe) of ideas that normally end up on the scrap heap of history."

Diplomats said there was debate among EU governments over the significance of the daily marches by up to 200,000 pro-democracy demonstrators in Belgrade.

Some member states, notably Germany and the Scandinavians, argued that the collapse of communism in Yugoslavia was the inevitable last act of a process that began when the Berlin Wall fell 1989 and spread through Central and Eastern Europe.

Those countries tended to argue that the EU should give the Serbian opposition strong support.

But France and some others urged caution, warning of the risk of a bloodbath in Belgrade. They noted the working class had not joined students and intellectuals in the protests so far, in contrast to Czechoslovakia's "Velvet Revolution."

They also argued that whatever his responsibility for igniting the war in former Yugoslavia, Milosevic had in the end played a constructive role in the Bosnia peace process and could still be a stabilising factor in the Balkans.

President Milosevic appeared to be offering an olive branch to opposition protestors, but Washington said it was sceptical of his plan to call in a trans-Atlantic security agency to help end Serbia's political unrest.

The invitation to the OSCE also failed to quell the massive street protests, with more demonstrations planned Saturday in Belgrade and other points around Serbia.

One determined group of 150 students marched for 20 hours, arriving in the capital Saturday after setting out from Novi Sad, 80 kilometres farther north. They were welcomed by a crowd of more than 1,000.

The United States, which is part of the OSCE, reacted with scepticism. "We are going to keep the pressure on," said U.S. State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns.

But in Vienna, the OSCE welcomed Belgrade's invitation, saying in a statement that it would consider the offer and give a rapid reply.

In a letter to OSCE President Flavio Cotti, Yugoslav Foreign Minister Milan Milutinovic said the organisation has been invited to Belgrade "because of the dissatisfaction with the election results and objections formulated by the opposition party."

The U.S. spokesman made it clear that Washington rejected "the legalistic arguments" used by Mr. Milosevic to justify his cancellation of the election results.

Nevertheless, Mr. Burns said the United States would consider the Serb proposal, adding that any delegation to Belgrade should be led by a "prominent international figure."

On Saturday, the Belgrade government accused the anti-Milosevic opposition of trying to seek financial aid from the United States.

The accusation came in a statement by Tanjug, commenting on a meeting a group of Serbian opposition representatives had with several members of the U.S. Congress this week in Washington.

According to Tanjug, the opposition representatives were "openly looking for financial aid from the American government and Congress."



Belgrade students march across the bridge over Sava River during the protest against Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic Friday. The Belgrade students and supporters of the Serbian opposition coalition Zajedno have been protesting for nearly four weeks against election fraud and calling for Mr. Milosevic's resignation (Reuter photo)

EU leaders turn to East Europe

DUBLIN (R) — European Union (EU) leaders, having clinched a landmark deal for their planned single currency, turn to the rest of the future Saturday as they meet counterparts from 11 countries clamouring to join.

Enlargement and a joint attack on crime and drugs were set to take centre stage as the leaders of the 15-nation bloc began the final day of their end-of-year summit.

The heads of state and government were to meet counterparts from Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Slovenia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Bulgaria, Romania and Cyprus.

All have been promised they can join the union some time in the near future. Formal negotiations are due to begin about a year from now, six months after the EU finishes rewriting its treaty.

Irish officials admitted the discussions might be an anti-climax after the accord reached Friday on a pact to keep government budgets sound after the Euro is introduced on Jan. 1, 1999.

Irish Prime Minister John Bruton said the pact, which broke a Franco-German standoff on Economic and Monetary Union (EMU), showed EU leaders had "the political will to make the' project work."

European leaders Friday agreed a package of measures to clamp down on organised crime and drug trafficking, with France and the Netherlands putting aside their public differences in the interests of the union.

Irish diplomats at the European Union summit said the joint action programme "represented a substantial degree of progress on this critical problem" which the EU presidency had made a top priority in trying to win back citizen confidence.

The bloc's 15 member states pledged to increase cooperation between customs, police and business to prevent drug trafficking and drug "tourism," with provision for severe jail terms.

They will also crack down on the domestic cultivation and production of drugs, banning the growing of cannabis under glass or polythene, except for legitimate businesses producing hemp.

"Cannabis grown for legitimate use is of very little interest to those who wish to use it for other purposes," an Irish ministerial aide said.

Member states will improve the exchange of information between forensic laboratories on the chemical profiling of seized drugs, increase joint customs surveillance operations, such as monitoring consignments of illicit drugs across borders, and set up a directory of operational skills and knowledge.

The Netherlands, which takes over the EU presidency next month and has been sharply criticised for being too soft on drugs, joined the call for tougher action, but remains unwilling to abandon a 20-year experiment in tolerating the use of small amounts of soft drugs and close down its "coffee-shops."

France protests that Dutch laxity has led to thousands of young "tourists" flocking to the Netherlands to buy cheap and readily-available drugs which are then circulated in France and other neighbouring countries.

But the two countries agreed to lift reservations on the package and hold further discussions on how to fight drug addiction within a common policy on crime and drug trafficking.

Dutch Prime Minister Wim Kok told reporters he had "friendly and constructive" talks with French President Jacques Chirac who viewed the agreement as a first step in the fight against drugs.

France said it would maintain border checks in the north to try to prevent drug "tourism."

"A whole crisis atmosphere, created in the media and fanned by politicians, has fortunately, and to the satisfaction of our prime minister, not led to a clash in front of our partners," one senior Dutch diplomat said.

"Mr. Kok was prepared to say his bit if he'd been pushed around, but he hoped all along that relations (with France) could be normalised. And, on the basis of reasonable arguments, we can now elaborate further on cooperation," he said.

"On reflection, we see what has been agreed on today as a good step in the right direction. There is no fuel for further misunderstandings or bitterness."

The agreement noted a sharp rise in the quantity of drugs coming into the EU from Central and Eastern Europe, particularly the Balkans, and promised actions to curb drug smuggling.

The drugs and crime discussions also come within the inter-governmental conference (IGC) review which has proposed stepping up EU efforts to tackle organised crime and create an area of "freedom, justice and security" for the bloc's 380 million citizens.

Belgian police step up search for missing children

BRUSSELS (R) — Belgian police hunting missing children said they found two entrances to a disused mine shaft Saturday that could contain traces of a paedophile gang's victims.

A police spokesman said it could take a week to complete the search. One entrance, found under a concrete block hidden by a pile of scrap cars, was flooded.

The police hunt was centred on a shaft in an old mine in the south belgian town of Charleroi. It is part of a mine complex that was searched in October on information provided by Marc Dutroux, chief suspect in Belgium's child sex abuse scandal.

"We have found two holes and are seeking to excavate them so that we can reach the tunnel which conforms with the information we have," Gendarmerie Major Marcel Guissard told a news conference at the scene.

Mr. Dutroux and several alleged accomplices detained since August after two young girls were rescued alive from a secret dungeon in a house he owned.

The bodies of four other girls were later found buried at properties connected to Mr. Dutroux and an acquaintance, Bernard Weinstein, whose body was also found.

Police are searching for at least seven missing children.

Acting on what they said was fresh information, police returned to Jumet Friday, towing away scrap cars and searching the basements of four houses for other possible entrances to the mine.

"Based on information from some of the arrested people, and certain enquiries we have been able to make, we are convinced that here at Jumet...Not far from the tunnel we searched in (October), there is another underground place where we may find traces of children or somewhere they were held," Maj. Guissard told RTBF Television Friday.

On Saturday, Belgian media reported a cache of arms had been found at the scene, but it was unclear if this was related to the Mr. Dutroux inquiry.

On Tuesday, police charged a man in connection with the abduction in 1992 in Brussels of a nine-year-old Moroccan girl, Loubna Benaissa.

A Taste of Royalty

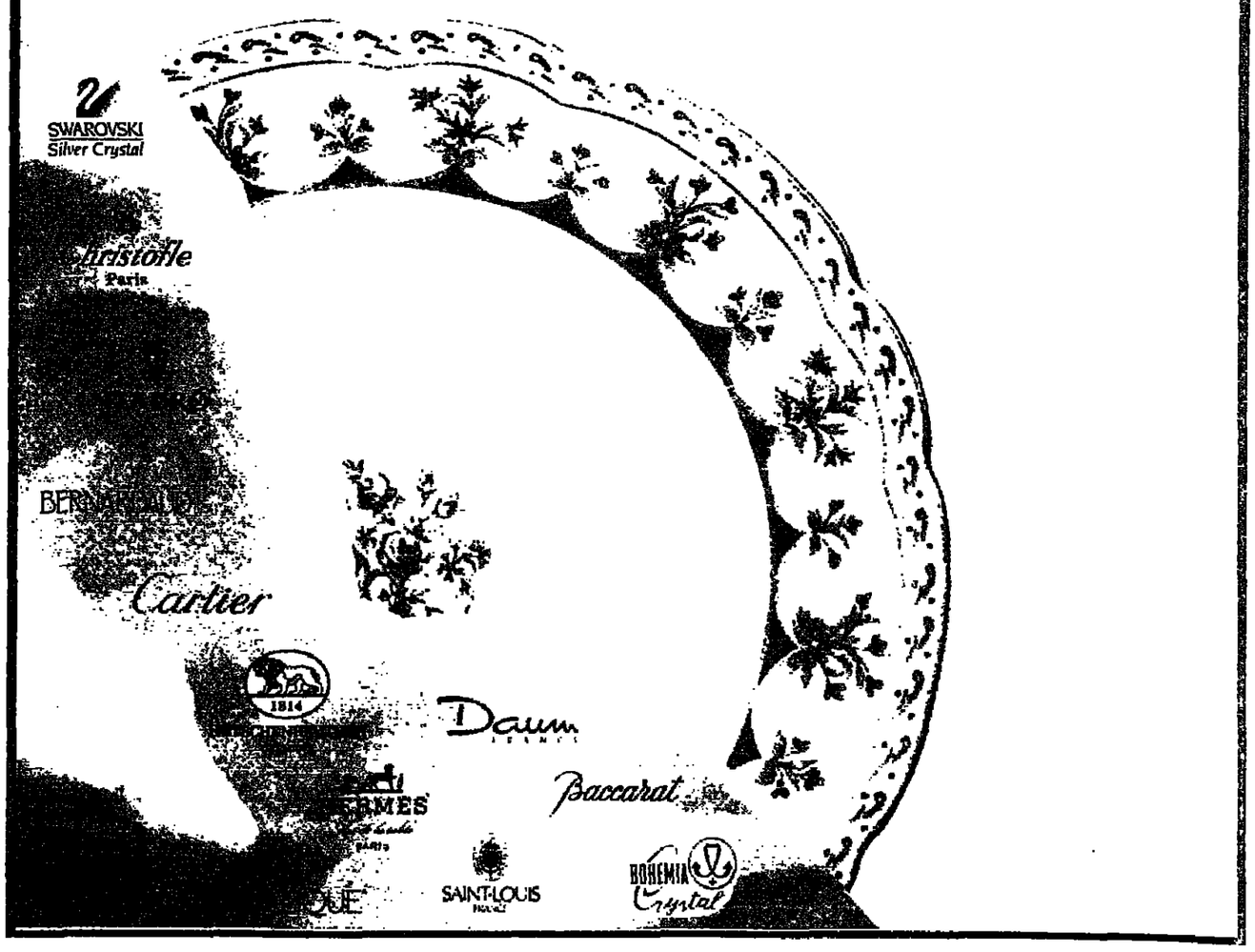
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MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:
GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:
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Telex: **21497 ALRAI JO**
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Preparing for failure as well

KING HASSAN II of Morocco has been in the forefront of the Arab leaders calling for peaceful accommodation with Israel on the basis of U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338. He has continuously advocated negotiations with Israel for that purpose, just as Morocco has been an early subscriber to the call for peace between the Jewish state and the Arab World. This strong and unwavering support by Morocco for a Middle East settlement seems to have been dealt a severe blow of late with optimism giving way to pessimism even by Rabat which was among the early pioneers for peace in the area.

The recently convened session of the Academy of the Kingdom of Morocco (AKM) in Amman is, above all, an expression of this sense of dismay, a sense that has lately been permeating the Arab World in particular, and the world at large. The AKM meeting brought together imminent scholars and intellectuals from all over the world to ponder the question: "And what if the peace process fails?" There was unanimity among the conferees at the end of their three-day deliberations that the hopes generated by the peace accords with Israel are now being shaken by the hardline policies of the Netanyahu government. The fact that the session was held in Jordan is an indicator that not only Morocco is losing faith in the future of peace, but also this country whose leadership has done so much for the cause of peace and coexistence.

A chain of events that started with the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin last year and ended with the victory of the right-wing Likud leader, Benyamin Netanyahu, surely vindicates the current prognosis that the Likud-led government in Israel is simply incapable of making peace with the Arab World. Israel's decision Friday to bolster settlements in Palestinian territories by exploiting the killing of two Israeli settlers by elements belonging to an extreme Palestinian faction is another demonstration of the determination of Israel under Netanyahu to wreak havoc with the prospects of peace.

If this is the essence of the verdict of the AKM conference on the Israeli government, the question that remains is what to do about it. It is not sufficient to make the proper diagnosis of the problem especially when there is already a universal conviction that hard-liners in Israel are not there to make peace but rather prepare the groundwork for renewed conflict. As one of the participants remarked: The current situation "requires from the intellectual elite of Arab and Islamic countries to propose solutions to overcome the existing obstacles." Perhaps the Arab intellectuals, but especially the ruling elite, should devote more time to devising strategies based on the assumption that the peace process is going to fail under the present circumstances. And they should prepare themselves for that eventuality. However, they should do whatever in their power to deprive extremists, especially Israeli hardliners, from taking us all back to the days of strife and misery.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

ISRAELI PREMIER Benyamin Netanyahu is playing with fire and the Arabs have to be very careful and refrain from acting irresponsibly as the premier is out to shed Arab blood and expand the Israeli occupation, according to Sultan Hattab, a writer for **Al Ra'i** daily, Saturday. Referring to the attack carried out by Palestinian groups against settlers two days ago, resulting in two deaths, the writer said that the attack offered Mr. Netanyahu the excuse he needed to beef up the existing settlements and increase their influence in the occupied Arab territories. Willingly or unwillingly, those who carried out the attack on the settlers played into the hands of the Israeli extremists led by Mr. Netanyahu who found in it an excuse to offer incentives to Jews building settlements and facilities to expand the existing colonies on Arab lands, charged the writer. He said those elements that carried out the attack are irresponsible people because their move helped give Mr. Netanyahu, whose hands are already stained with Arab blood, the pretext to assume an even more hard-line position and a pretext to ruin the peace process. The writer criticised U.S. President Bill Clinton who, he said, has been silently condoning the Israeli prime minister's actions and his settlement programmes, but was quick to mourn the dead settlers and condemn the attackers. He said that the latest attack on the settlers can only be a setback for the peace process.

A WRITER for **Al Dustour** discussed the execution of criminals who commit murders in cold blood and suggested that their execution be carried out in public so as to deter others from committing crimes. Mohammad Subeihi said in the past few months, Jordanians were appalled by a series of crimes committed in the country and are demanding stricter penalties to stop further crimes. While appreciating the efforts of the Jordanian police to solve many of these crimes, the public believes that new methods should be adopted to execute convicted criminals, so as to deter others from such brutal acts, he said. It goes without saying that hanging criminals is bound to deter people from committing crimes, but, said the writer, hanging should be carried out in public so that it can have deeper and more effective impact on would-be criminals. The writer demanded that the current penal code be amended in such a way as to enable the concerned authorities to hang those convicted of committing brutal and premeditated crimes in public.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

'Jabal Ali is not for us'

LAST MONTH the Ministry of Information in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) gave some journalists, included myself, the opportunity to visit the duty free zone in Dubai, called Jabal Ali.

We had expected to find a mountain (jabal) or a shepherd (Ali); instead, we came to see the port of Jabal Ali, carved from the sea into the flat desert. An elaborate briefing covering the establishment of Jabal Ali, its functions and expected results were given us.

Those who were impressed while in Jabal Ali, came back to Amman to advocate repeating the same experiment in Jordan. Unfortunately, there are practical difficulties which make such a venture merely a dream that cannot be converted into a reality.

First, we should note that Dubai, and perhaps the whole UAE, is a free zone. No income tax is imposed on either nationals or foreigners who conduct business and make money in the country. Customs duty, when applicable, has a ceiling of 4 per cent. Jabal Ali, therefore, is a natural extension of the Dubai economy, rather than the exception, as the case would be in Jordan or, for that matter, in Egypt.

Jabal Ali is a natural extension to Dubai free market. Those who run Jabal Ali have the mentality of a private trader, which is the culture in Dubai, not the mentality of the bureaucratic manager of the public sector of which Jabal Ali is a part.

To manage something similar in Jordan, we need, and lack, an exceptional managerial mentality in the public sector which has a different culture. It should not be forgotten that the directors of our Free Zone Corporation are usually selected from seasoned executives of the Customs Department, known for its complicated routine.

What Jabal Ali provides to businesses is not the tax exemptions, which are available to all companies in the country; it provides extra services, land, buildings, cheep energy and the huge port which can comfortably handle 67 ships at the same time, and the services of handling, storing, assembling, distributing, in addition to various administrative and personal services, including visas, residencies, and even divorce formalities, which Jordan is not equipped to provide.

In order for such high quality services to be offered, the government of Dubai established a sophisticated infrastructure in Jabal Ali, which took 10 years to construct and cost $2.5 billion. The cost is not yet recovered, even though the number of customers utilising the services of Jabal Ali exceeds one thousand. The income statement of Jabal Ali is kept as a secret.

All that we were told was that the current revenues exceed the operational expenditure, if the cost of infrastructure is excluded.

The capital cost of building something similar to Jabal Ali is obviously beyond the financial means of Jordan.

Jabal Ali is positioned around 30 kilometres out of the city of Dubai, in the plain desert, spread over 10 square kilometres, with additional 90 square kilometres available for future expansion.

It has one of the largest sea ports on earth, carved in the desert. It appears in the photographs taken from satellites as a landmark on the surface of earth, just like the Chinese Great Wall.

Jordan's geography does not allow something like that to be built in the country.

It is worth mentioning that Jabal Ali created some 30 thousand jobs. Unfortunately, it employs no more than 35 nationals. Almost 99 per cent of the jobs are filled by outsiders. It is known that the most important benefit from free zones is the creation of jobs, but in this case, it only resulted in a higher influx of foreigners to the country. The question is whether Dubai needs more consumers to enhance imports and more tenants to fill the empty apartments and populate the country.

Jabal Ali is really a great achievement. However, being impressed is one thing, and calling for building a Jordanian Jabal Ali in Aqaba or Mafraq is another. A Jordanian Jabal Ali is not feasible, not practical, and not possible.

Whether we like it or not, Jordan's comparative advantage lies in the production of services, which do not need free zones.

Separation of powers is 'one of the main principles of democracy and constitutional government'

By Dr. Maan Abu Nowar

EVEN DURING the ancient Greek city states, the doctrine of the separation of powers was one of the main principles of democracy and one of the main pillars of constitutional government. The theory of separation of powers was implicit in the writings of Aristotle (384-322 BC), in his division of the constitution into three separate elements or powers: 1. the deliberative power: legislative; 2. the executive of magistracies power: executive; 3. the judicial power: judiciary.

Throughout ages, the division of powers remained more or less present in different forms. Gradually, each of the three powers became separate, each according to its function and the authorities vested in it: 1. the legislative function, concerned with the enactment of laws and regulations determining the structure and powers of the public authorities and regulating the conduct of citizens and private organisations; 2. the executive function, concerned with the maintenance and survival of the state and its government, excluding the functions of the legislative and the judicial powers; 3. the judicial function, concerned with all disputed questions of fact and law, in accordance with laws made by the legislative and expounded by the courts.

Thus, the primary organs of the democratic state, within its system of government based on law, are the legislature, the executive and the courts. Without this division of functions, without the separation of these organs according to their functions, it would be pretentious to claim the existence of the values of democracy and the rule of law.

English philosopher James Harrington (1611-1677) was the first political theorist who argued for a written constitution with separation of powers, rotation of the executive and secret ballot.

In his Second Treatise of Civil Government of 1960, the English philosopher and political theorist John Locke (1632-1704) wrote: "It may be too great a temptation to humane frailty, apt to grasp at power, for the same persons who have the power of making laws, to have also in their hands the power to execute them, whereby they may exempt themselves from obedience to the laws they make, and suit the law, both in its making and execution, to their own private advantage."

Another philosopher and political theorist who expounded the principle of separation of powers was the French jurist de Montesquieu (1689-1755). He wrote: "When the legislative and executive powers are united in the same person, or in the same body of magistrates, there can be no liberty. Again, there can be no liberty, if the judiciary power is not separated from the legislative and executive. Where it joined with the legislative, the life and liberty of the subject would be exposed, to arbitrary control: for the judge will be then the legislator. Where it joined to the executive however, the judge might behave with violence and oppression. There would be an end to every thing, where the same man, or the same body, whether of the nobles or of the people, to exercise those three powers, that of enacting the laws, that of executing the public resolutions and that of trying the causes of the individuals."

The founders of the United States constitution of 1787 expressed clearly the principle of separation of powers. They vested each group of the main constitutional functions in a separate organ. At that time, they may have emulated the British constitution, when the executive powers were being transferred from the crown to the cabinet. In the U.S. constitution, the three powers are vested as follows: 1. legislative power is vested in the Congress consisting of the Senate and the House of Representatives; 2. executive power is vested in the president, and; 3. judicial power is vested in the supreme court and any other courts established by Congress.

"It may be too great a temptation to humane frailty, apt to grasp at power, for the same persons who have the power of making laws, to have also in their hands the power to execute them, whereby they may exempt themselves from obedience to the laws they make, and suit the law, both in its making and execution, to their own private advantage."

In the system of democracy and government of the U.S., the distinction between the three powers is clearly sharp, but it overshadows the democratic principle of government: collective responsibility and accountability. Thus, although neither the president nor any member of his cabinet can sit, participate or vote in Congress, and have no powers of initiating draft laws, the president is not directly responsible to Congress. The heads of departments (ministers) are individually responsible to the president, not to the Congress. However, there is no complete separation of powers in the U.S., for within the constitution there is a system of checks and balances which distributes elements of control and influence between the three organs of government.

The separation of powers in the French constitution is slightly different from that of the U.S. The constitution of the Fifth Republic of 1953 created a stronger executive: it restricted the powers of the legislative in compelling the government to resign; and it gave the president more freedom to rule by decree under certain circumstances.

What does the doctrine of separation of powers mean? Because of the differences in the various constitutions, it may mean three different constitutional provisions: 1. that the same person or persons may not be part of more than one organ of the state. A minister may not sit in parliament, or a judge may not be a member of the cabinet; 2. that one organ of the state may not control or interfere in the working of the other. The judiciary is independent of the executive or the ministers may not be responsible to parliament; 3. that one organ of the state may not have the authority to exercise the functions of the other. The ministers may not have legislative powers.

A careful examination of the three provisions above will naturally show that it is nearly impossible to have a complete and successful separation of powers. Some degree of balanced cooperation, mutual control, checks and balances must be included in a system of government for it to function effectively.

In the United Kingdom, the executive power is vested in a cabinet formed from the legislative. The cabinet controls the operation of parliament. The highest court of the United Kingdom is in the House of Lords (legislature), and the judges of that court have some influence on legislation. But by tradition, Lords without judicial authority may not sit in judgement. The real strength of the separation of powers in the United Kingdom is expressed in the facts of the functions of power: the laws enacted by the legislative must be applied by the executive and must be upheld by the judiciary, but if a judge acts ultra vires, the legislature may hold him to account, and the executive may remove him from office. Thus, in practice, the principle of freedom under the United Kingdom constitution is guaranteed by the independence of the judiciary, which acts as a brake upon power, more than being a power. This is while the legislative and the executive are the instigators of policy, and always need to act in concert.

In the constitution of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the principle of separation of powers stands moderately between the U.S. and French constitutions, on the one hand, and the constitution of the United Kingdom, on the other. As in all modern constitutions, "The Nation is the source of all powers." (Article 24). In the same chapter, the separation of powers is clearly provided for in the following articles:

Article 25. The Legislative Power shall be vested in the National Assembly and the King. The National Assembly shall consist of a Senate and a Chamber of Deputies.

Article 26. The Executive Power shall be vested in the King, who shall exercise his powers through his ministers in accordance with the provisions of the present Constitution.

Article 27. The Judicial Power shall be exercised by the courts of law in the varying types and degrees. All judgements shall be given in accordance with the law and pronounced in the name of the King.

Furthermore, the details of the functions, responsibilities and authorities of each of three organs of the state mentioned in the three articles above are described separately in each of the following chapters of the constitution: Chapter 4, The Executive Power; Chapter 5, The Legislative Power — The National Assembly; Chapter 6, The Judiciary.

The system of checks and balances between the three organs of the state are described in details in Part II of the Constitution "Provision governing both Houses" of the National Assembly.

The Executive Power in the Jordanian Constitution stands as a moderate compromise between the U.S. and the U.K. constitutions. The King may select his prime minister from any House of the National Assembly or outside them. On recommendation from the prime minister, the King may appoint his ministers in accordance with the needs of the country; he can select them all from the National Assembly or all from outside it. He can also select a ministerial team from both within and outside the National Assembly. However, the cabinet remains subject to a vote of confidence by the elected chamber of deputies, in accordance with the democratic principle of government responsibility and accountability.

The only contradiction of the principle of separation of powers in the Jordanian Constitution is the interference of the legislative in the work of the judiciary, as provided for in Article 55: "Ministers shall be tried by a high tribunal for offences which may be attributed to them in the course of the performance of their duties." Furthermore, senators with judicial office may sit in judgement in the high tribunal, contrary to the practice of the House of Lords, as an example of democracy.

Thus, His Majesty the King, in accordance with the constitution, is entirely free to select his prime minister and ministers from within or from outside the National Assembly or from both, without any need whatsoever to amend the constitution. It is important for those who debate the need for the selection of the prime minister and the ministers from outside the National Assembly not to use the pretence of the principle of the separation of powers as a political or legal justification for their point of view; for that separation is very conspicuous in our constitution.

The writer is a member of the Upper House of Parliament, and a former deputy prime minister and minister of information. He contributed this article to the Jordan Times.

LETTERS

Erroneous computing

To the Editor:

I WRITE with reference to the two-part study: "Analysis shows standings of banks in Jordan" (Jordan Times, Nov. 6, 1996) and "Two banks account for 52% of Jordan's banking sector profits" (Jordan Times, Nov. 7-8, 1996), conducted by Mifleh Akel, which aims at outlining the financial results and performance of banks operating in Jordan in 1995.

Upon reviewing the performance criteria outlined in the study, it became clear to us that Mr. Akel did not consistently use the results of the Jordan operations of certain banks and has, therefore, arrived at some erroneous conclusions.

For example, Mr. Akel utilised the consolidated results of the Jordan and West Bank and Gaza operations of one bank and compared them only to the results of the Jordan operations of the remaining banks. As such, the relative size, profitability and performance of the said bank appeared greater than they are in reality.

As for Cairo Amman Bank, Mr. Akel correctly used the results of the Jordan operations in 1995. However, in calculating growth rates from the previous year, he referred to Cairo Amman Bank's consolidated 1994 results. As such, two important growth criteria were incorrectly calculated:

1. Deposits (including inter-bank deposits) with Cairo Amman Bank's Jordan branches increased from JD 184.3 million at yearend 1994, to JD 245.2 million at yearend 1995. Cairo Amman Bank's deposit growth rate, consistent with the study's methodology, was, therefore, a positive 33.0 per cent; not minus 33.2 per cent. This ranks Cairo Amman Bank first among the 19 banks covered in the study, in terms of deposit growth.

2. The total assets of Cairo Amman Bank's Jordan operations increased from JD 330.2 million at the end of 1994, to JD 417.1 million at the end of 1995. Accordingly, Cairo Amman Bank achieved a positive total asset growth rate of 26.3 per cent in 1995 and not a minus 2.2 per cent. This ranks Cairo Amman Bank third among the said 19 banks, in terms of total asset growth.

We would also like to take this opportunity to request Mr. Akel to review his work and republish it, in the interest of professional research methodology.

Yazid Mufti,
General Manager,
Cairo Amman Bank,
Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

Jordan takes delivery of U.S. military aid

(Continued from page 1)

equipment will be used for upgrading the performance of the army in its quest to "protect the Kingdom, its Constitution and democracy" and in peace-keeping missions worldwide.

Ambassador Egan said the equipment would bolster Jordan's fighting capabilities to confront what he said were continuing threats to stability in the region.

"The Armed Forces of Jordan...have been and will continue to

be committed to the causes of stability, peace and security in

this entire region," said the King.

"The United States looks to Jordan as one of the most important, constructive, and moderate forces for peace," Mr. Egan told the news conference.

"This is still a region in which there are real threats... The ability of the Jordanian Armed Forces to meet those threats...is the fundamental rationale for the provision of this military equipment," he said.

The equipment was delivered under a drawdown programme of U.S. military stocks, approved by President Bill Clinton in February. The size of the aid package is still modest compared to the hundreds of millions of dollars in military assistance pumped by Washington to Israel and Egypt every year since the two countries signed a peace treaty in 1979.

U.S. officials say military aid to Jordan this year also included around $25 million worth of equipment supplied under a regular Excess Defence Articles (EDA) programme, including 500 small trucks, rifles and medical supplies.

Mr. Clinton last month named Jordan a major non-North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) ally of the United States, entitling the Kingdom for priority consideration for EDA assistance. Following are major excerpts from the King's comments at the press conference:

"I am indeed deeply grateful to the president of the United States and the U.S. administration, the Pentagon for their support and we are proud of our association of each other as we have always been.

"We are upholding the same principles and ideals and struggling for a better tomorrow. The armed forces are involved not only in the protection of the Kingdom and its Constitution and democracy but they are also involved in peace-keeping missions in very different parts of the world and they have been committed and will continue to (be committed) to the cause of stability and peace and security in this entire region.

"As for the U.S. and Jordan , they are old friends and if I look back to my life I recall many decades of our struggle together in different phases of the evolution of this world through the cold war, through many crises, crises that affected this region and the world.

"We have always been close together and the fact that we are privileged to become a major non-NATO ally to the U.S. is something we highly value and treasure."

'Does the U.S. voting system need revamping?'

By Wilma Rule, Steven Hill and Sandy Fenández

DOES THE U.S. voting system need revamping? In our last congressional elections, only 39 per cent of eligible voters voted, down from a low 55 per cent for the presidential elections two years before. Among 21 democracies in Western Europe and North America, the U.S. ranks next-to-last in voter turnout in presidential elections, behind Switzerland, and last in congressional elections. In state and local races, the two major parties sometimes have to beat the bushes in order to get anyone to run; much less vote. Women and minorities continue to be underrepresented at all levels and, with the recent Supreme Court decision rescinding race-based districting, more of the population than ever is feeling that voting is a futile activity.

But in cities such as Boston, Cincinnati, Oakland, San Francisco and Seattle, reformers are trying to recharge an apathetic electorate by taking aim at the very process of voting itself. They are trying to replace our current process with proportional representation (PR), the system used to elect legislatures in most of the world's established democracies.

In essence, PR allows different voting blocs or political parties to win legislative representation that is proportional to their numbers at the polls. If a voting bloc wins 10 per cent of the vote, it wins 10 per cent of the seats: 30 per cent of the vote, 30 per cent of the seats; and so on. While PR cannot be used for single-winner races like those for president or governor, it does allow the electorate to reward the top few candidates on a slate (think city council, school board, state legislature, anything up to and including the federal House of Representatives) instead of simply giving a seat to the top vote-getter in a district.

The easiest way to explain PR may be to take a look at a single type of race in a single locality: congressional representation for North Carolina.

Each of North Carolina's 12 congressional districts is currently represented by one seat in the House of Representatives, and each of these seats is awarded to the candidate who wins the most votes in districtwide elections. In the most common scenario, a two-party, two-candidate race, the 50.1 per cent or more of the population that voted for the winning candidate will see themselves represented in Congress. The others — even if they represent 49.9 per cent of the population — will have earned no voice with their vote. Nothing. Voters know this, and so often vote for the candidate they believe realistically stands a chance of breaking the magical 50 per cent election threshold, rather than the candidate they actually like best. Often, they do not bother to vote at all.

Numbers of congressional seats are calculated by population — California, for example, has 52 representatives, while Alaska has one — so North Carolina would still have to fill 12 seats under PR. However, since PR depends on multiseat contests, the districts would have to be redrawn to create a smaller number of bigger districts. One proposal considered a variety of factors (like population density and geography) in trying to meld similar existing districts, and suggested the state be reconfigured from 12 single-seat districts into four multiseat districts, with three seats each. Instead of voting for one congressional representative, a citizen of Asheville would now vote for three.

The new configuration would change the way politicians and parties campaign. Independents and third-party candidates would benefit from PR's lower election threshold (in a battle over three seats, just one vote over 25 per cent of the electorate is high enough to earn a seat, as opposed to the over-50 per cent majority currently required in a single-winner race). The lower election threshold allows candidates to win seats without having to water down their views for majority appeal. Consequently, voters would probably see more independents and third parties running for office, and more of those voters would be represented by someone they chose.

The use of PR would also raise the elected numbers of another portion of the population — women.

Under our current system, women remain by far the most under-represented group in the U.S. They make up only 11 per cent of the House of Representatives, placing the U.S. seventeenth among 27 long-established democracies in terms of women's representation in national legislatures. In fact, in the House, underrepresentation of African Americans is largely an underrepresentation of African American women. While there are currently almost two million more African American women than African American men in the population, there are almost four times as many African American men as African American women in the House. The story is the same for Latinas, who make up 0.6 per cent of the House while making up 5 per cent of the population. And in the 50 state senates there are nearly five men for every woman.

In countries that use PR, however, the numbers are much different. Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden boast female representation above 30 per cent. South Africa, which chose a PR system in 1993 to better represent the members of its new multiracial democracy, also beats the U.S., with 25 per cent female representation. In countries like Germany, that use both multiseat districts and U.S.-style, single-seat districts, three times more women won seats in the PR districts during the last election than were granted them in the single-seat districts. More U.S. women — including more African Americans — were elected to state legislatures in multiseat districts than in single-seat ones.

The evidence is compelling that single-seat legislative districts — the voting system used in most U.S. elections — discriminate against women. Seventy-five years after the 19th Amendment gave women the vote, our major political parties still think twice before putting a woman on the ballot. After all, that woman has to be inoffensive enough to appeal to over 50 per cent of the voting public. Under our present system, a small number of discriminatory or fearful voters can deny a female candidate a seat. Under PR, the parties would be sponsoring several candidates, and throwing a woman or two into the mix would not be the huge gamble it apparently is in a winner-take-all race. Voters would be much more likely to spend their votes on women if they felt those candidates actually stood a chance of winning. And, having a better chance of wining, women would be more encouraged to run for office.

Implementing alternative voting systems at the local, state and congressional levels does not require any revisions to the U.S. Constitution. Changes would be needed only in some applicable local and state laws, and in one federal law. Representative Cynthia McKinney (D.-Ga.) has already introduced a bill that would return to the states the option of electing their congressional delegations by PR. McKinney unveiled the Voters' Choice Act in 1995 after her district was wiped out by the U.S. Supreme Court's decision that race-conscious districting was unconstitutional.

The same votes counted by different voting systems can produce completely different representation. Passage of the act would go a long way towards providing equal representation to women and "minorities." It would also open up Congress to third parties, allowing them to compete on a near-level playing field with the two major parties, ending the near-stranglehold they have had on U.S. politics for most of this century.

Funny, nearly a year after being introduced, the Voters' Choice Act is still languishing in the House Judiciary Committee.

Wilma Rule is a professor of political science at the University of Nevada, Reno; Steven Hill is the West Coast director for the Centre for Voting and Democracy; and Sandy Fernández is the research director at Ms. magazine, wherefrom this article is reprinted.

PR systems:

LIST SYSTEM: The most widely used form of PR and the best for women. The voter selects one party or bloc and its slate of candidates to represent her in multiseat districts. If there are ten seats in a district and a party receives 30 per cent of the vote, it receives three — 30 per cent — of the seats. Usually the top three names on the party slate fill the seats. Sometimes the voters choose these top candidates, and sometimes they are prechosen by the party.

MIXED MEMBER: Elects half the legislature by the list system and the other half by a system of single-seat districts. Used by the governments of Germany and New Zealand.

PREFERENCE VOTING: Allows blocs of like-minded voters to win representation in proportion to their voting strength. The voter simply ranks candidates in an order of preference. Once a voter's first choice is elected or eliminated, excess votes are "transferred" to subsequent preferences until all positions are filled.

CUMULATIVE VOTING: Every voter has the same number of votes as there are contested seats. Voters can put all their votes on one candidates or cast three votes for one candidate, two for another, or some other combination. Candidates with the most votes win.

PNA warns Israel, urges Palestinians

(Continued from page 1)

The Israeli decision "exposes the true plans of the Israeli government to destroy the entire peace process and return the area to the edge of explosion," it said.

It also repeated accusations that the Israeli army had deployed tanks and forces outside Palestinian self-rule areas.

The settlements decision "is extremely dangerous, the most dangerous issue we have faced since Netanyahu's government came to power," International Cooperation Minister Nabil Shaath told journalists after the cabinet meeting.

"The Palestinian National Authority (PNA) will move on all fronts, both at the United Nations and with popular mass action to challenge the Israeli settlement policy," he said.

Mr. Netanyahu announced the new incentive programme, which makes Jewish settlement in the Palestinian territories a "national priority," in response to the killing this week of a settler woman and her son by suspected Palestinian militants in the West Bank.

The PLO statement condemned plans to expand existing Jewish settlements, the Friday decision on incentives, and Israel's deployment of tanks in response to Israeli-PLO gunbattles that cost scores of lives in September.

"The Palestinian leadership calls on the masses everywhere to firmly confront with all possible means the Israeli settlement aggression in order to defend the land," it said.

At its weekly meeting, Mr. Netanyahu's cabinet decided to reinstate benefits for West Bank settlers, such as lower taxes, that are already given to residents of disadvantaged towns inside Israel, and to Israelis in Gaza and the Golan Heights.

Israel's main ally Washington, going beyond standard U.S. phraseology, called the settlement incentive decision "troubling," suggesting it could hamper peace talks as a step "seen to preempt the outcome of a negotiation."

Since taking office in June, the Netanyahu government has given the go-ahead for the construction of thousands of homes in existing settlements but has yet to meet the demands of settler leaders to establish new outposts.

Palestinians fear Mr. Netanyahu's government is creating "facts on the ground" to cement its control over Arab land.

Senior Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat told Reuters:

"To consider the West Bank as part of Israel and to expand and encourage settlements means Netanyahu is officially killing the peace process, which was based on the crucial principle of gradually ending occupation."

Under the landmark 1993 peace deal with the PLO, Israel's previous Labour government withdrew from much of the Gaza Strip and from most Palestinian towns in the West Bank. But Mr. Netanyahu has pledged to bolster Jewish settlements.

Israeli commitment to agreements key to success

(Continued from page 12)

al and political elite attending the conference included: AKM Permanent Secretary Abdul Latif Barbish, former member of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organisation Ahmed Sidqi Dajani, Director of the Moroccan Dar Al Hadeeth Mohammed Farouk Nebhane, Russian expert on Middle Eastern politics Anatoli Gromyko, former Egyptian Minister of Information and Youth Ahmad Kamal Abu Al Majd, former Director General of the Islamic Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation (ISESCO) Abdul Hadi Boutaleb, and U.S. astronaut Neil Armstrong.

"The debate was enriched by the fact that there was a mixture of politicians and academics, of Europeans and Americans and Arabs," commented Dr. Abu Jaber.

South Lebanon quiet after mystery Katyusha attack

(Continued from page 12)

aid, are Russian-made Sagger anti-tank missiles that Hizbollah has been using against Israel over the past two months, the paper's unnamed sources said.

The shipments also include modified long-range Katyusha rockets capable of being launched from Lebanon and hitting as far south as Israel's third largest city, Haifa, according to Israeli intelligence reports to the United States.

U.S. officials have not verified that claim, the paper reported.

Shipments are now "very intense" and mark a significant increase in the supplies sent to Hizbollah since Israel's April offensive against the militia, a senior Pentagon official said.

Iran's military camps in Lebanon, run by about 200 Iranian revolutionary guards, appear to be offering training on the more advanced weapons, the paper reported. Hizbollah has shown proficiency with the Saggers, Pentagon officials said.

Iranian diplomats denied the charges. "Any allegations that Iran supplies Lebanese groups with arms are absolutely false," Hossein Nosrat, spokesman for the Iranian U.N. mission in New York, told the paper.

"The nature of our support to Lebanon is only humanitarian and moral support," he added.

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World welcomes Annan as U.N. chief

(Continued from page 1)

Friday during a CNN interview.

"Because Mr. Ghali, although a good leader, was slow on U.N. reforms ... he lost credibility, the U.N. lost credibility in Congress, so Congress over the years did not pay America's dues."

Washington insisted that a new U.N. chief was needed to improve relations between the world body and the U.S. congress, which had linked the payment of $1.3 billion in arrears to the Egyptian's departure.

In an interview with CNN earlier Friday, Mr. Annan called on the United States Friday to pay its debt to the world body.

"I hope to be able to work with the new (U.S.) administration ... to convince them that they should pay their debt," Mr. Annan said.

"By withholding their contribution, they offend friend and foe alike ... you cannot manage an effective organisation on a shoestring budget."

Britain's Foreign Secretary Malcolm Rifkind welcomed the Security Council's recommendation of Mr. Annan in a statement released in London.

"His experience and outstanding personal qualities make him ideally qualified to lead the U.N. in tackling the many urgent tasks which it currently faces," said Mr. Rifkind, on an official visit to Cyprus.

Moscow also welcomed the appointment. Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman Mikhail Demurin said the choice of Mr. Annan would "ensure that the organisation can continue to work in a constructive manner."

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Shen Guofang noted that China had always supported the election of an African to the post.

The fact that Mr. Annan was recommended, "shows the trust and expectations of the international community in Africa," Mr. Shen said.

Ghana's Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister Mohammad Ben Chambas told AFP that Mr. Annan "is up to the task. He has worked for 30 years in the U.N. and he knows the organisation."

The Polish ambassador to the U.N., Zbigniew Maria Wlosowicz, said: "Kofi Annan knows the organisation very well and will know how to lead change in the United Nations, an evolution without revolution."

In Stockholm, Swedish Prime Minister Goeran Persson gave an enthusiastic welcome to Mr. Annan's appointment, saying Mr. Annan "is a person known and respected who has given an large part of his life to the service of the U.N."

Press reaction in the Ivory Coast, home of the other leading candidate Amara Essy, was one of irritation at Mr. Annan's appointment, however.

The daily Le Jour deplored "this cynical war of the vetoes carried out by the Western powers, which is flabbergasting and humiliating." Another newspaper, Le Populaire, said France had sold out in the face-off with the Americans for its own political gain.

"France will probably get the post of assistant secretary general, which up to now was Annan's post," it said.

Mr. Annan will become the seventh secretary general in U.N. history and the first from sub-Saharan Africa. He will also be the first secretary general to rise through U.N. ranks.

He takes up the $205,809 a year post Jan. 1, 1997. The perks of one of the world's toughest jobs include a town house overlooking the east river on New York's posh Upper East Side.

In a statement and in interviews after receiving the Security Council's nod, Mr. Annan said: "My highest priority will be to work with all member states to redefine the objectives of the organisation in the post-cold war world."

Aware of the shortcomings for which the middle-aged United Nations has been blamed, he said it was "time to agree on what the United Nations can and must do, and what it cannot do."

Baghdad appears to be normal after attack on Uday Hussein

(Continued from page 12)

United Nations resolution allowing Iraq to sell a limited amount of oil.

"Contrary to what the regime wanted to say, that the U.N. decision would negatively affect the opposition, the attack reflects continued displeasure over Saddam's rule," he said.

"It also is a reply to Arab calls for reconciliation with the Baghdad regime and shows that this person (Saddam) is not acceptable and that he will sooner or later fall," Mr. Samerai said.

U.N. sanctions, including a ban on Iraqi oil exports, were imposed after Iraqi troops invaded Kuwait in 1990. Iraq was expelled from Kuwait in 1991 by U.S.-led forces but the sanctions will stay in place until the country's weapons of mass destruction are dismantled.

Mr. Samerai said collaboration of people close to the government was necessary for such an attack to have been carried out.

Opposition sources said that authorities have detained more than 120 people after the attack on Uday.

Uday, the target of at least two other assassination attempts since the 1991 Gulf war, reportedly said from his hospital bed Friday that he was not seriously injured.

Witnesses in Al Mansour that few passersby who were found to be carrying arms were arrested and taken to a local police station.

The reports by the opposition could not be independently confirmed. The exact number of people detained — or if they continued to be held — was not clear.

Jordanian officials said the border with Iraq was closed for several hours Thursday, apparently to prevent any of the attackers from fleeing the country. Iraqi officials carefully searched cars and passengers crossing the border Friday.

Since the Gulf war, President Saddam has put key ministries and military units under the supervision of his sons, Uday and Qusai.

Uday unofficially runs the trade and information ministries, heads the Olympic Committee and owns a newspaper and a television station. Qusai is in charge of President Saddam's personal security and was recently put in charge of the army's elite Republican Guard Corps.

The increase in the power of the two sons followed the defection to Jordan in August 1995 of his two sons-in-law, who vowed to bring down his government from afar.

But the plans of Hussein Kamel and his brother Saddam Kamel fizzled and the two men were killed by family members after returning to Iraq in February.

The street where the attack on Uday took place was splattered with sheep's blood on Friday and thronged with Iraqis celebrating that Uday survived the attempt on his life.

Scores of sheep were slaughtered and the area where the assassination attempt took place was splattered in sheep's blood, a traditional sign that a bad omen was dispelled.

Thousands of people gathered at the site while a brass band played the national anthem, women swayed to the tune and several people showered the crowd with chocolates and other sweets.

"The evil intentions of killing the symbol of Iraq's youth (Uday) have failed," said one man. "When conspiracies fail it is an occasion to celebrate," he said.

Reduction of customs duties on cars to take effect from beginning of 1997

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Customs duties on cars will be reduced by 40 per cent with effect from Jan. 1, 1997, but it does not mean a decline in prices because the reduction will be made up in additional taxes, senior officials said Saturday.

The reduction in customs duties for cars comes in line with Jordan's internal moves to make the country's tariff structure more compatible with the requirements of a partnership agreement with the European Union (EU) and the Kingdom's accession to the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

Jordan and the EU will sign the partnership agreement in early 1997. The Kingdom has already started accession negotiations with the WTO, which, in essence, advocates tariff-free trade among its members.

Ministry of Planning Secretary-General Nabil Ammari told a Rotary Club audience late Thursday that the move to reduce customs duties on cars would take effect on Jan. 1.

However, he added, an additional tax of equivalent rate will be imposed to make up for the loss of revenues for the treasury.

Commenting on the planned move, an official said Saturday that there would be several structures of the new customs tariffs on cars, "but the reduction will be roughly 40 per cent."

It was not immediately clear whether the new tariffs will follow the same line after a reduction in customs duties announced last year on the basis of the engine sizes of the vehicles.

The move was not unexpected. Planning Minister Rima Khalaf said early this year that customs duties on cars would be reduced but the additional tax would be imposed to make up for the loss of revenue.

Dr. Ammari told the Rotary Club audience on Thursday that the government could not simply afford to lose the revenues from customs duties and it was imperative that the reduction had to be made up through the additional tax.

Several countries, including the U.S., are pressuring Jordan to revamp the customs duty structure on vehicles. They are demanding that the duties be set on an across-the-board basis rather than the present slab structure based on the engine size — meaning that cars with smaller-size engines pay a lower percentage while those with higher engine sizes will pay as high as 200 per cent.

In other comments, Dr. Ammari also predicted that most Jordanian products would not be able to enter European markets immediately after the signing of the partnership agreement with the EU. The reason, he explained, local industries are not yet committed to specifications and standards and are unable to meet the terms required by the value added tax.

The planning ministry also reaffirmed the government's intention to sell its equity in commercial entities as part of its efforts to give the private sector the dominant role in the economy.

World Bank supports Jordan's reforms with $120 million loan

WASHINGTON (Special) — The World Bank board has approved a $120 million loan to support reforms currently being undertaken by Jordan to integrate the economy more fully into the world market. The second economic reform and development loan is backing reforms that target increased competition and exports, a modern financial system, best-practice business laws and privatisation.

An important component of Jordan's reform strategy is the creation of an enabling legal environment for business. A new securities law, recently approved by the Cabinet, will create a modern Security Exchange Commission with authority to regulate the stock exchange and securities market. The Amman Securities Exchange and the Amman Depository Company will be private sector owned and fully computerised within the next 18 months. The Jordanian government is also working on new legislation to establish a market for leasing and secured financing.

The government is pushing ahead with its trade reforms. In addition to continued tariff reduction and streamlining of customs, it has undertaken two important steps toward facilitating trade: A fast-track channel for imports used for export production, and a voluntary pre-shipment valuation scheme.

The privatisation programme supports private sector participation in infrastructure investments. Shares in the Telecommunication Corporation and Jordan Cement Factories are slated to be sold to domestic and foreign investors. Jordan Electricity Authority has been incorporated and its two subsidiaries divested. Private sector concessions and BOO/BOT (Build-Operate-Own/Build-Operate-Transfer) schemes are planned for the transport sector.

The bank loan is for 17 years, including a four-year grace period at the bank's standard variable rate.

IMF foresees Egyptian GDP growing six per cent a year by decade end

CAIRO (R) — Egypt's economy will grow at least six per cent a year by the turn of the century if the government continues to liberalise trade and privatise the public sector, an International Monetary Fund (IMF) official has said.

Howard Handy from the IMF's Middle East Department told a news conference that inflation will also fall to about five per cent a month from current levels of above seven per cent once the fund-backed reform programme is realised.

"Egypt is making impressive progress on the economic front and I firmly believe our projections are pessimistic. Once the circle of reforms gets moving, it will have a very considerable impact on the economy," Mr. Handy said.

The deal envisages reforms including privatisation, trade liberalisation, deregulation, greater private sector involvement in the financial system and modernisation of the fiscal system.

According to central bank statistics, Egypt's gross domestic product (GDP) growth for the 1996/97 financial year, which started in July, will be five per cent, just over twice the population growth rate. Growth for 1995/96 was 4.9 per cent.

And although the state managed to bring down inflation to a record low of 4.9 per cent for the year, ending November 1995, consumer prices have climbed since then, reaching 7.6 per cent in the year to August 1996, official statistics said.

Independent sources estimate inflation is at least three per cent higher.

For the past three years, the government with IMF help has tried to restructure its ailing public-sector dominated economy. The state began implementing the reforms in earnest since it appointed in January an economically-oriented cabinet.

The new team, led by Prime Minister Kamal Ganzouri, has so far cut tariffs by up to 25 per cent and promised to privatise more than 30 per cent of state-owned firms by mid-1998.

The reforms have prompted the fund to sign with Egypt a standby credit deal which will allow Cairo to withdraw about $200 million a year — an offer which Egypt, flush with ample reserves at $185 billion, has declined to cash in on.

The agreement has, however convinced international creditors to scrap Egypt's last tranche of $4 billion official debt.

Mr. Handy said Egypt was on the way to implementing the IMF reforms which ultimately boil down to boosting savings and investment which will in turn stimulate growth.

"Savings and investments are the building blocks of economic growth. Domestic investment is currently at less than 18 per cent of GDP which is not high enough to sustain high growth.

"Investment can be funded by increased saving and the extra revenue will come from the privatisation programme and updating the fiscal sector," Mr. Handy added.

Public banks slashing their share in joint venture institutions was one way to modernise the monetary side which the government has already implemented, Mr. Handy said.

The state could also consider issuing longer term treasury bills (currently at three and six months) and privatising the state's cash-intensive pension scheme.

Egypt hopes its reform programme would not only increase domestic investment but lure foreign funds as well. Last month, IMF resident representative Arvind Subramanian told Reuters Egypt had since April drawn up to $400 million in investment.

Officials have said they expect next week's Middle East economic summit will also polish Egypt's investment potential.

REUTERS REUTERS

The Business of Information

Major Currencies & Cross Rates — Prices as at 14/12/96 19:17

Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	ITL	NLG	FRF
US Dollar	-	1.5543	0.6035	1.3237	114.15	1.3625	1531.86	1.7430	5.2450
DE Mark	0.6434	-	0.3879	0.8517	73.43	0.8763	985.25	1.1213	3.3744
GB Sterling	1.6570	2.5738	-	2.1868	188.65	2.2577	2538.29	2.8882	8.6910
CH Franc	0.7555	117.33	0.4553	-	86.20	1.0285	1156.38	131.67	3.9594
JP Yen	0.0088	1.3610	0.5281	1.1591	-	1.1931	13.41	152.63	4.5928
CA Dollar	0.7339	1.1416	0.4430	0.9718	1.19	-	1123.89	1.2807	3.8459
IT Lira	0.0007	1.0140	0.3935	0.0864	1343.91	0.8889	-	11.37	3.4217
NL Guilder	0.5737	89.15	0.3459	75.95	65.45	0.7815	878.61	-	3.0083
FR Franc	0.1907	0.2962	0.1149	25.2277	21.74	0.2597	33.22	33.2200	-

Energy

Oils	Last	Previous
Brent	23.95	23.40
W. Texas	24.40	23.70
Bony	23.95	23.40
Dubai	20.65	20.25
UL Gas	206.00	205.00

Mid-East Currencies

Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY
SA Riyal	0.2666	0.4146	0.16092	0.35322	30.4497
AE Dirham	0.2723	0.42335	0.16433	0.3607	31.0955
KW Dinar	3.3339	5.18403	2.01207	4.41696	380.662
BH Dinar	0.3770	4.12371	1.60077	3.5137	302.939
CY Pound	2.123	3.2998	1.2805	2.8102	242.341

Metal Prices

Metal	Bid	Offer
Gold (oz's)	368.55	369.05
Silver (oz's)	4.82	4.84
Platinum (oz's)	368.25	369.25
AL (3 Months)	0	0
CU (3 Months)	0	0
Zinc (3 Months)	0	0
Lead (3 Months)	0	0
NI (3 Months)	0	0

Currency Deposit Rates (Bid)

Period C'ncy	- 1 - Month	- 3 - Months	- 6 - Months	- 9 - Months	- 1 - Year
USD	5.50	5.43	5.46	5.56	5.62
GBP	6.12	6.26	6.59	6.50	6.68
JPY	0.12	0.12	0.18	0.28	0.25
DEM	3.18	3.13	3.13	3.11	3.15
FRF	3.30	3.35	3.36	3.37	3.40
CHF	1.94	1.87	1.87	1.81	1.87
ITL	7.43	7.09	6.77	6.58	6.48

Main Equity Indicies

Bourse	Index	Value	Chng	% Chng	High	Low	Pr Cls
NewYork	DOW JONES	6304.87	1.16	0.02	6344.47	6251.05	6303.71
Newyork	S&P 500	728.64	-0.69	-0.09	731.47	721.88	729.33

Energy

Commodity	Last	Delivery
Coffee (c/lbs)	114.75	Spot
Cocoa ($/ton)	1370	Spot
Sugar ($/ton)	304.7	Spot
Wheat ($/ton)	129	Spot
Soya (c/lbs)	21.75	Spot
Tea (sig/kg)	125	Spot
Barley ($/bsh)	2.16	Spot
Rice ($/ton)	470	Spot

* JOD Cross Rates

Currency	Buy	Sell
US Dollar	0.708	0.710
GB Sterling	1.1708	1.1767
DE Mark	0.4544	0.4567
CH Franc	0.5338	0.5365
FR Franc	0.1349	0.1356
JP Yen	0.6194	0.6225
NL Guilder	0.4051	0.4071
IT Lira	0.4615	0.4638

* Source: Central Bank of Jordan.

HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1996

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) A period of meditation with your mate today can solve some difficulty between you, so keep the lines of communication open. Keep promises you have made to others and thereby maintain your good reputation.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Think over public affairs well today and determine what career activities need to be accelerated. This is a good day later tonight to have long talks with fellow business associates and resolve any difficulties.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Study every detail of the tasks you have taken on today and make the best of your efforts to complete them. Contact a fellow associate and come to an understanding upon what steps are necessary to complete your tasks.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Get together with congenial friends today and enjoy usual pleasures which are not too expensive and can provide everyone involved with some pleasant time. Later tonight seek out the advice of knowledgeable people who can help.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Take care today you do not lose your temper at home, though tempted, and avoid a fierce disagreement with those who live under your roof. This evening can be spent with close friends and have a wonderful time together.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Study into ways today to become more successful and happy with your career activities and you will get noticed by those in authority. Don't try to force your idea or there could be great difficulty.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You are worrying about your financial status today, however, don't do anything hasty which you could regret in the days ahead. Later this evening will be good for you to consult with business advisors and generate a plan of action.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Deep contemplation today can show you the best plan of action to follow in the days ahead for you to realise the success which you seek. Later this evening make the effort to consult with a bigwig and use what is discussed.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) This is a good day today to get accumulated small tasks behind you so you can move on to important matters concerning career activities. Later this evening you can meet with fellow associates and complete any new project.

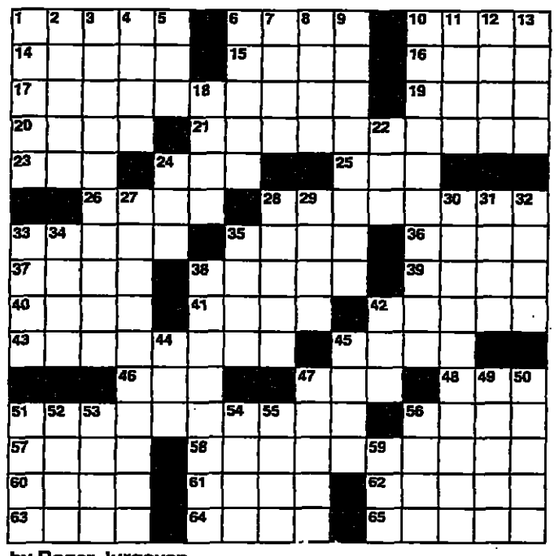
CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Women can be especially thoughtful today and make life brighter for others, so make the effort to be kind to your loved ones or fellow associates. Later this evening you can get together with close friends for some fun.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Use your energies today to solve outside affairs which need your attention. Try to stay at home tonight and relax with your loved ones, for in the days ahead you could meet up with some resistance concerning career activities.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Meditation and philosophical studies can bring fine results in the days ahead if you apply yourself. This evening you can seek out those in authority and discuss your progress with some assistance of fellow associates.

Birthstone of December: Turquoise — Zircon.

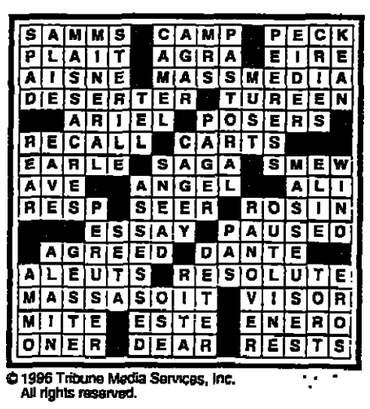
THE Daily Crossword



by Roger Jurgovan

ACROSS
1 Pops
6 Slumped
10 Deprive of wages
14 Like an old woman
15 Dry watercourse
16 Neighbor of Pakistan
17 Dissatisfies
19 Shopper's delight
20 Move slowly
21 Discord
23 End to profit
24 Strike out
25 Short cut
26 Biblical land
28 Sits
33 Bottom
35 Delight
36 Kind of bean
37 Yale alums
38 Considers
39 Doctrines
40 Mild oath
41 Nest eggs
42 Remains
43 Infected
45 Utters
46 Sgt.
47 Dry, as wine
48 Letters of endearment
51 Discourse formally
56 — Rabbit
57 Needle case
58 Disfavor
60 Note
61 And others: abbr.
62 Rakes
63 Press
64 Latitude
65 Ancient Caucasian

DOWN
1 Ms. Hawkins
2 Cat—tails
3 Disgraces
4 Coleridge's "sacred river"
5 Chosen: abbr.
6 Beau
7 Girl
8 March date
9 Disregards
10 Disadvantage
11 Algerian port
12 Estimate: abbr.
13 Leg joint
18 Dutch treat
22 Integers: abbr.
24 In favor of
27 Dissent
28 Beg
29 Butts
30 Distressful
31 Entertainment award
32 Lip
33 Social dud
34 Jai —
35 Withered
38 Disarray
42 Pouch
44 Whiz
45 Leak through
47 Passe
49 Riparian bulwark
50 Helmet plume
51 Ms. Moore
52 Anatomical canal
53 Form of wrestling
54 Josip Broz
55 Hurry-up letters
56 Ringling or Smith
59 In favor of



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Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



Islamic banks seen growing in Asia

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Islamic banks are expected to expand their activities in Asia, already the biggest base for such business, a senior Islamic banker has said.

Samir Abid Shaikh, secretary general of the Jeddah-based International Association of Islamic Banks (IAIB), said South Asia has 47 Islamic banks accounting for nearly a quarter of the total assets and a third of the deposits of the 144 Islamic banks in the world.

Addressing a conference on Islamic banking in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), he said such banking operations had steadily grown over the past decade and would likely maintain growth in the short and medium terms.

"In the long range, we can anticipate activities in three categories— amongst consolidating Muslim minorities within Third World countries such as India and the Philippines and around currently war-torn areas with Islamic orientation like Afghanistan, Chechnya, Kashmir and Bosnia," he said.

"There will be activity amongst growing Muslim populations in North America and Europe and parts of China in the distant future.

These banks will probably operate under different licences to comply with local banking laws," he said.

Delegates at the conference said Islamic banking was gaining ground given the vast resources of Islamic banks worldwide and a tendency by other commercial banks to introduce separate Islamic banking facilities.

A study showed the 144 Islamic banks had around $6 billion in capital, more than $166 billion in assets and $77 billion in deposits at the end of 1995.

Apart from the 47 units in South Asia, there are 30 Islamic banks in Africa, 24 in South East Asia, 22 in the Middle East, 17 in the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), and four in Europe and North America.

In terms of assets, the Middle East accounted for 59 per cent of the total, South Asia for 27 per cent and the GCC for 11 per cent. The Middle East also comprises 39 per cent of the deposits while 34 per cent are based in South Asian Islamic banks and 21 per cent in the GCC, the study showed.

Islamic banks do not deal in interest which is prohibited under Islamic law as usury. They instead charge a certain percentage on the profits from the projects they finance or subscribe to Islamic-oriented ventures.

According to Mr. Shaikh, the combined capital of Islamic banks jumped by around 27 per cent in 1995 over 1994 while there was an increase of 10 per cent in deposits and around seven per cent in assets.

He said the increases were mainly because of the inclusion of five major Iranian Islamic banks and two in South East Asia.

His outlook in the short term showed growth of between three and four per cent in Islamic banks worldwide while their primary indicators are projected to increase by four to five per cent annually.

He expected more growth to be recorded in Islamic funds managed by conventional banks as they have the "machinery and know the industry."

"In the medium range, current operating Islamic banks will have overcome growing pains, reached the needed critical mass and cemented their foundation. Therefore, we might observe some renewed energy and higher growth," he said.

"Also in the medium time range, we will probably observe the establishment of new banks in the newly-activated economic zones ... In the Middle East, we should look at Yemen, Palestine and Lebanon, and in Central Asia at Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan, Kyrgyz and Kazakhstan," Mr. Shaikh concluded.

European business leaders sound alarm over EU economic decline

PARIS (AFP) — Several European business leaders have sounded the alarm about the declining role of the European Union (EU) in the world economy and notably in Asia, the president of the French employers' federation CNPF, Jean Gandois has said.

The business leaders, together with political and trade union personalities in a consultative group on competitiveness, had recently issued a warning in a report to the president of the European Union Commission, Jacques Santer.

"In 1995 the share of the European Union of world exports was 19.4 per cent from 21.1 per cent in 1990," the report said.

The report expressed particular concern at a decline of trade outside the EU from 22.6 per cent of EU gross domestic product in 1983 to 18.6 per cent 10 years later.

"This can be seen as a sign that the European economy is not becoming integrated as rapidly as it should in the world economy," the report said.

They also expressed concern that maintenance of the EU's share of direct foreign investment reflected mainly flows within Europe.

On the dynamic markets of South East Asia, "European foreign direct investment is almost negligeable," it said.

Daily Business

A review of news from the Arabic press

Banks return 315,500 cheques in first nine months of 1996

** DURING THE first nine months of this year, banks have returned a total of 315,500 cheques which carried a value of JD328.1 million. In 1995, the number of cheques that bounced was a record 440,900 with a value of JD400.4 million. According to official Central Bank figures, 741.5 million cheques carrying a JD944.8 million value were presented for clearing in September 1996 but 33,000 cheques with a JD32.4 million were returned by banks.

The largest number of 643,200 cheques for JD853.1 million was registered in Amman followed by Irbid where records showed the number of cheques presented in September 1996 to be 46,900 for an amount of JD32.8 million. The numbers for Zarqa and Aqaba were 40,300 and 11,100 cheques for JD30 million and JD28.9 million respectively. The total number of cheques presented for clearing in 1995 was 8.39 million cheques that carried an aggregate value of JD10,605.9 million.

The figures indicated that the ratio of returned cheques to the total number presented for clearing was high at 4.75 per cent in July but the ratio declined in August and September when it fell to below 3.5 per cent (Al Dustour).

Government revenues increase

** ACCORDING TO Central Bank statistics, the government's local revenues amounted to JD123.5 million last August compared to a JD109.0 million revenue in July 1996. Of the August amount, JD73.4 million were revenues from taxes and JD50.1 million from other sources (Al Dustour).

NAF's 1997 budget expected to reach JD26m

** NATIONAL AID Fund (NAF) Director General Khaled Ghneim expects the fund's 1997 budget to reach approximately JD26 million, no less than 35 per cent more than the 1996 budget of JD17.5 million. He said that 3,519 beneficiaries were getting recurrent cash aid from the fund until the end of last month. The number of beneficiaries is 764 more than the total of aid recipients in 1995.

According to Mr. Ghneim, the fund disbursed JD2.4 million in cash aid from the beginning of this year until the end of November (Al Dustour).

World chip market to grow 7.4 per cent in 1997— study

SAN JOSE, California (AFP) — The global semiconductor market should expand 7.4 per cent in 1997 to a value of $138.8 billion before returing to double-digit growth in the next two years, the Semiconductor Industry Association (SIA) has reported.

Citing a multiyear forecast by the World Semiconductor Trade Statistics Group, the association said chip sales would increase in 1998 by 17.1 per cent to $162.6 billion and 21.6 per cent in 1999 to $197.6 billion.

But the industry this year has suffered a downturn. Final sales are expected to amount to $129.2 billion, after $144.4 billion in 1995, although in the fourth quarter of 1996 chip manufacturers should see a 3.5 per cent increase in sales.

"This represents the first year of negative growth for the industry since 1985, when sales dropped by 30 per cent," said SIA President Thomas Armstrong.

"However, 1996 is merely a blip on the industry's phenomenal growth record when compared to the gut-wrenching slump of 1985," he indicated. "Long term prospects for the chip industry are still excellent because the world has a ravenous appetite for the electronic equipment that relies on semiconductors."

The SIA is an international association made up of 70 manufacturers.

It said sales of dynamic random access memory (DRAM) chips, which represent 19 per cent of the world market, will fall to $24.6 billion this year, a 39.7 per cent drop from 1995.

In 1997, the study predicted, total sales revenue for DRAMS will decline an additional 13.9 per cent to $21.1 billion.

But the trend will reverse course in 1998 and 1999, when DRAM sales are expected to increase by 29.1 per cent and 41.2 per cent respectively to $27.3 billion and $38.6 billion.

In other sectors, the study forecast that sales of microprocessor chips, which serve as "brains" for computers, will expand 17.5 per cent in 1996 to $16.7 billion. They will increase 22.9 per cent in 1997 to $20.6 billion and 20.2 per cent in 1998 to a value of $24.8 billion.

In 1999, microprocessor sales will surge another 21.1 per cent to $30 billion and will represent 15 per cent of the global chip market, compared to 10 per cent today.

Geographically, the north and south American market should retain its standing as world leader throughout the decade.

The region's projected 1996 sales of $41.7 billion represent an 11.1 per cent decline from $46.9 billion in 1995.

But sales in the region are expected to rise by 5.8 per cent in 1997 to $44.2 billion and then climb sharply in 1998 and 1999.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - SHMEISANI
TELEPHONE: 667171 / 667179
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SATURDAY 14/12/1996

PAST 12 MONTHS HIGH			COMPANY'S NAME	P / E	DIV.	NO. OF TRANS.	NO. OF SHARES	VALUE TRADED JD	OPEN PRICE	CLOSE PRICE	CHANGE
269.600	20	ARB	ARAB BANK	.1.0	1.17	11	6600	1272900	256.00	255.00	1.00-
1.250		.850	MID.EAST INV.BK.	68.2	0.00	24*	15000	15602	1.05	1.04	.01-
6.250		4.100	THE HOUSING BK.	12.7	1.95	1	350	1353	4.75	4.75	-
3.040		1.440	JOR.KUWAIT BANK	18.1	0.00	6	264	631	2.62	2.39	.02-
1.200		.850	JOR.GULF BANK	5.8	7.22	3	4050	3966	.98	.97	.02-
4.185		3.460	JOR.ISLAMIC BANK	17.8	1.11	1	186	696	3.71	3.70	.01-
3.800		1.000	JOR INV./FIN.BANK	19.5	1.00	1	150000	540000	3.68	3.60	.08-
1.590		1.000	PHILADEL.INV.BK.	g	0.00	22	20750	23793	1.33	1.14	.01-
BANK SECTOR TOTALS				INDEX: 193.99		%CHG: -0.39		83	195126	1762930	
1.900		1.460	JOR.ELECTRIC PWR.	11.5	7.23	4	3500	5810	1.66	1.66	-
6.050		4.200	ARAB INTL.HOTELS	18.4	0.76	6	7830	36270	4.65	4.65	-
1.960		1.080	NATL. PORTFOLIO	g	0.00	29	13350	16198	1.25	1.21	.04-
1.260		.580	JORDAN INTL.TRAD.	31.3	0.00	4	2100	1303	.59	.61	.02+
3.720		3.130	ARAB INTL.INV.EDUC.	13.7	5.76	5	1000	3470	3.49	3.47	.02-
2.430		1.690	UNIFIED CO.	10.6	4.98	64	28150	56225	2.00	2.01	.01+
SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS				INDEX: 112.26		%CHG: -0.10		110	55900	119275	
3.770		3.060	JOR. CEMENT FACT.	19.7	2.90	8	1480	5131	3.53	3.45	.03-
6.000		4.950	ARAB POTASH CO.	17.6	3.45	12	7249	41995	5.75	5.80	.05+
10.950		8.720	JOR. PETROL.REFINARY	9.7	8.35	13	934	8942	9.60	9.58	.02-
3.750		1.650	INDUSTRIAL COMM.AGR.	36.6	0.00	6	1250	3400	2.71	2.72	.01+
8.150		6.420	JOR.WORSTED MILLS	9.0	3.59	9	1200	8580	7.05	7.15	.10+
4.070		3.040	ARAB PHARM. MANF.	19.8	1.56	20	6644	23898	3.66	3.60	.06-
2.060		1.671	JOR.PIPES MANFCT.	2.6	7.55	2	350	580	1.60	1.66	.02+
2.310		1.250	JAR ALCAVA CO.INV.	13.3	4.11	2	4250	10624	2.49	2.47	.02-
5.800		3.130	ARAB ALUM.IND.	2.6	8.70	4	2150	7418	3.45	3.75	.30+
.960		.550	LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	g	0.00	47	52100	32196	.63	.62	.01-
1.850		1.210	NATIONAL STEEL IND.	g	0.00	2	5250	6718	1.33	1.27	.06-
1.090		.530	NATIONAL INDS.	9.2	9.68	10	12250	7595	.64	.62	.02-
1.840		.930	INTERMED.PETRO.CHEM.	g	0.00	3	1750	1925	1.13	1.10	.03-
1.350		.670	JOR. SULPHO-CHEM	g	0.00	6	1550	1226	.82	.78	.04-
1.910		1.080	ARAB PHARM.CHEM.	28.1	0.00	53	16550	24992	1.57	1.50	.07-
1.620		1.060	KAWTHER INVEST.	43.5	4.96	1	200	242	1.26	1.21	.05-
3.480		1.450	UNIV. MODN.INDS.	5.3	11.43	27	10300	18064	1.80	1.75	.05-
2.100		1.140	JOR.INDS.RESOURCES	16.3	0.00	17	7800	10150	1.32	1.30	.02-
1.580		.960	JOR. NEW CABLE CO.	26.9	0.00	14	4200	4173	1.02	.79	.03-
2.460		1.750	EL -BAY READY WEAR	P	0.00	2	1027	2033	2.00	1.98	.02-
1.460		1.080	INTL. TOBACCO	28.2	0.00	15	6750	8032	1.19	1.20	.01+
1.730		.930	UNION CH. & VEG.	24.6	0.00	6	5500	5593	1.05	1.00	.05-
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS				INDEX: 115.66		%CHG: -0.28		274	150737	243257	
GRAND TOTAL				INDEX: 152.74		%CHG: -0.33		467	401763	2125462	

PARALLEL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SATURDAY 14/12/1996

	.790	.440	CENTRAL GEN.STORAGE	20.9	0.00	2	1500	780	.54	.52	.02-
N	.950	.440	NATL.COMMER.CENTERS	E	0.00	5	9550	4662	.51	.49	.03-
	.930	.700	UNION INV. 50%	69.8	0.00	28	95855	22026	.73	.73	-
	1.110	.370	ARAB FIN.INVEST.	g	0.00	48	56450	24858	.46	.44	.02-
	1.760	1.300	NATL. CHLORINE	E	0.00	15	16700	23547	1.42	1.40	.01-
	1.000	.520	NATL. TEXTILE	g	0.00	9	3350	1943	.61	.58	.03-
	1.100	.400	NATL.MULT.ENG.NAMICO	E	0.00	26	36300	17529	.51	.48	.03-
	.810	.430	NAYZAK DIES & MOULDS	E	0.00	1	1000	510	.54	.51	.03-
	1.080	.720	JORDAN STEEL	E	0.00	10	11650	8778	.77	.75	.02-
	.780	.430	ARAB ELECT.INDS.	P	0.00	8	5150	2575	.50	.50	-
	1.330	1.020	UNION TOBACCO 75%	E	0.00	3	350	284	1.06	1.06	-
	.840	.570	RAZI PHARM. 65%	E	0.00	1	200	52	.60	.61	.01+
	.830	.390	INDS. ENG.	25.9	0.00	8	4250	1785	.43	.42	.01-
	1.430	.760	INDS. CERAMIC	E	0.00	5	1750	1435	.84	.82	.02-
N	.950	.800	ARAB INT. FOOD FACT.	63.2	0.00	2	1250	1035	.92	.90	.02-
N	1.500	.530	MID.EAST COMPLEX	7.7	0.00	23	47400	32241	.70	.66	.04-
GRAND TOTAL								194	292605	144039	

N : Listed during the past 12 months
P : P/E ratio is 100 or more
g : Negative P/E
E : Earning is zero or N/A for the most recent year

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THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

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MAGLE

TEELEY

NARLAC

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon

Print answer here : A "_____"

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: VALVE BULGY PENURY DUPLEX
Answer: When Fido drank from the silver bowl it was – THE "LAP" OF LUXURY

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Japan faces improved Kuwait on course to retain Asian Cup

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Defending Asian Cup champions Japan will have to give a better performance than they did against China in the group matches when they face Kuwait in the quarter-finals on Sunday if they hope to retain the title.

South Korea made the mistake of underestimating the Kuwaitis and it very nearly cost them a place in the tournament's final stages, two Kuwaiti second-half goals doing the damage.

The defeat left South Korea hoping and praying that their four group points would be enough. It was, but only thanks to a last day win by Japan over China.

The Japanese waited until the 90th minute before they broke the scoreless deadlock. They also waited until the final five minutes against Syria before scoring twice to snatch victory. And it is their ability to continue to battle right to the end that should see them succeed over Kuwait.

The Kuwaitis, trying to rediscover their glory years of the 80's when they won the Asian Cup and qualified for the World Cup finals, have tended to fade in the final 15 minutes. After taking a 2-0 first half lead they collapsed against hosts United Arab Emirates in the group matches to go down 3-2.

Claims afterwards of dirty tricks by UAE officials could not change the fact that they had thrown away a comfortable lead.

South Korea, in the other side of the quarter-final draw, face a tough test against an Iran side that has impressed several European coaches here.

"They are very solid. A very impressive side that could surprise a lot of people," remarked one European coach.

The Saudi's were certainly impressed. Iran beat them and won the group.

The South Korean's main threat will come from defender Naeim Sadavi, whose attacks up the right side before crossing, usually to Ali Daei, have already caused plenty of problems for opponents.

South Korea is traditionally a slow starter, picking up the pace as the competition continues, but this time they have looked sluggish and out of form — going backwards instead of foward.

Even their win over no-hopers Indonesia failed to impress.

Coach Park Jong Hwan blames his players tough season in the Korean league.

"They are tired," he repeated after each group match.

Well they have had five days rest since their last match so tiredness should not be a problem against Iran.

Saudi Arabia, who if the form book holds true should meet the Koreans in the semi-final, face China.

The Chinese have been through an emotional roller coaster in the past two days.

Heartbreak when they crashed to Japan in the dying seconds of their final group match. With only three points it looked like they were out of the cup and on their way back to Beijing.

But Uzbekistan, would only needed a draw against Syria to top China and go into the quarter-finals in their first ever Asian Cup, went down 2-1 and suddenly China were back in the championships.

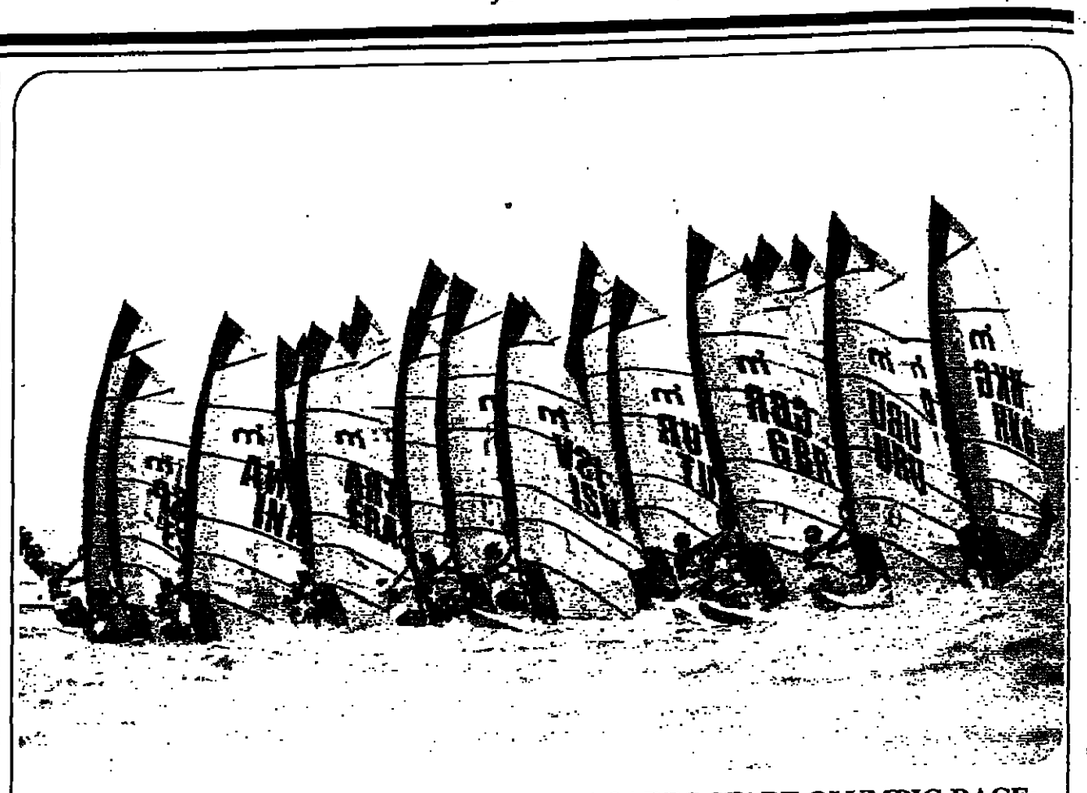
But a trip beyond the quarter-finals seems highly unlikely. The Saudis, two times champions, should be simply too strong and skillfull for them

The UAE take on Iraq which should be the battle of the round. The UAE stumbled into the quarter finals while Iraq, like Korea, got through by taking one of the last two avalable spots. One thing is sure — neither side will be taking any prisoners.

Organisers are privately hoping that UAE and Japan go into the semi-final. Should Iraq and Kuwait both win the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) will face the prospect of having only one semi-final.

Kuwait has made it clear that they will not play against Iraq under any circumstances.

If the worse does happen the Asian Cup, the showcase of Asian football, will be reduced to a farce.



IMAGES OF 1996 — **MISTRAL CLASS SAILBOARDS START OLYMPIC RACE:** **Men in the Mistral Class hit the starting line in tight formation as they pass the race Committee boat (left) during the start of race three of the Olympic Mistral regatta in the waters off Savannah Georgia, July 24 (Reuters photo)**

Navratilova named U.S. Fed Cup captain for 1997

NEW YORK (R) — Retired tennis great Martina Navratilova on Friday was named to succeed Bille Jean King as captain of the 1997 United States Fed Cup team.

Navratilova was appointed for next year with the understanding that King may return to the post in 1998, in-coming U.S. Tennis Association President Harry Marmion announced.

"I only signed on for the year, and that's all I was asked for," said Navratilova via telephone from Tampa, where she is playing in the Teamtennis finals this weekend. "When I was presented with the opportunity I couldn't say no."

King voluntarily stepped down after guiding the United States to the Fed Cup title with a 5-0 victory over Spain in the final in September. It was the 15th Fed Cup title for the Americans, but first since 1990.

"It is clear that Billie Jean may want to come back, the players may want her to come back," Marmion said. "I may have to name co-captains if Martina wins it."

Navratilova, perhaps the most successful competitor in Fed Cup history, said she would have no problem returning the captaincy to her close friend and former coach after the 1997 campaign.

"Billie Jean was here first and it's up to her to decide," said the nine-time Wimbledon champion. "I would certainly give Billie Jean King first crack."

Navratilova holds a remarkable 37-0 record in Fed Cup singles and doubles play. The Czech-born U.S. citizen is the only player ever to have won the cup playing for two different nations.

Navratilova played on the 1975 championship Czech team and combined with Chris Evert to bring the Federation Cup to the United States in 1982, 1986 and 1989.



Martina Navratilova

"Everytime I played it was a special occasion," recalled Navratilova, who said she was eagerly anticipating the chance to help her adopted country defend the title.

"I think I can really help teach the women a thing or two about the game," Navratilova said. "I love teaching on any level. It is going to be real pleasure to work with these champions."

Navratilova's first assignment as U.S. captain will be to enlist players for the first round in the Netherlands in March.

Lebanon emerging host to Asia cup

ABU DHABI (AP) — Lebanon, on its way to recovery after a 15-year civil war that ruined most of the country, is emerging as the choice to host the next Asia Cup in 2000, Asian soccer officials said Saturday. "There will be voting as there are other contenders, but Lebanon is a clear favourite," said an Asian Football Confederation official, speaking on condition of anonymity. The 16-member AFC executive committee will vote on Dec. 20, a day before the final of the 12-nation Asia Cup. China, Malaysia and South Korea are the other contenders. Lebanon's chances to get the majority vote improved with the seven Arab members of the AFC executive committee deciding to back it. AFC sources said. The Arab members held a meeting Friday in Abu Dhabi, the venue for the final of the Asia Cup, and decided to back Lebanon. India and Sri Lanka are also likely to vote for Lebanon. A multimillion dollar programme to rebuild the country is underway. Before the turn of the century, officials say, there will be luxury hotels and a new downtown Beirut in the rubble of what was once the Middle East's commercial centre.

PREMIER LEAGUE SOCCER

Ramtha's last minute goal, 11-goal win by Al Faisali make lead slip from Wihdat

By Roufan Nahhas
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A striking 11-0 win by Al Faisali over Al Oqqazi and a last minute goal that tied Al Ramtha 1-1 with Al Wihdat helped Al Faisali move up to the first place in the Kingdom's Premier League Soccer Championship.

Both Al Faisali and Al Wihdat now have 37 points, but Al Faisali leads on goal difference.

Al Faisali's Jerius Tadrus, who scored five of his team's 11 goals, secured his position as the league top scorer with 13 goals.

A last minute goal by Al Ramtha's Khaled Aqqouri made Al Wihdat lose its position atop the standings to its arch-rival Al Faisali with only two weeks remaining for declaring the 1996 league champion. Nevertheless, both teams will face each other in the final week, thus making it difficult to predict the winner.

In other matches, Al Hussein disappointed their fans after a tie with lowly Shabab Al Hussein 2-2 and Al Ahli reinforced their position in the last match ending the 16th week after a 3-1 win over Qadisieh.

Standings after 16th week

Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Faisali	15	11	4	1	39	12	37
Wihdat	15	11	4	1	33	7	37
Ramtha	15	8	5	3	23	14	29
Ahli	15	6	7	3	31	21	25
Hussein	15	5	7	4	22	21	21
Qadissieh	15	4	6	6	22	26	18
Jazireh	15	4	4	8	11	17	16
Kufrsoum	15	2	6	8	16	31	12
S. Hussein	15	2	5	9	22	31	10
Qoqazi	15	1	4	11	11	42	7

Schedule (all matches start at 2:30 p.m.)

Wed. Dec. 18	Qadisieh-Al Hussein	Amman
Thurs. Dec.19	Wihdat -Al Ahli	Amman
Friday Dec.20	Jazireh-Qoqazi	Amman
Friday Dec.20	Ramtha-Faisali	Irbid
Sat. Dec.21	S.Hussien-Kufrsoum	Mafraq

Euro '96 winners voted Germany's team of the year

BONN (R) — Berti Vogts's Euro '96-winning soccer players were named Germany's team of the year at an awards ceremony on Friday while decathlete Frank Busemann and Alpine skier Katja Seizinger were chosen as the sports personalities of 1996.

More than 1,200 sports journalists took part in the annual poll for Germany's most prestigious sports awards ceremony, held this year in the western town of Ludwigsburg.

Borussia Dortmund defender Steffen Freund, out of action becuase of injury, picked up the award on behalf of the soccer side, who were in Lisbon preparing for their World Cup qualifier against Portugal on Saturday.

Busemann sprang to the German public's attention by winning a silver medal at the Atlanta Olympics in only his fifth decathlon competition.

Seizinger was the 1995-96 women's overall World Cup

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNAH HIRSCH
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North-South vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
♠ 8 7 6 3
♡ A K
◇ A Q 7 2
♣ A Q J

WEST
♠ 9 2
♡ 10 9 8 5 4 2
◇ K 5 4
♣ 7 4

EAST
♠ K Q J 10
♡ 7 6
◇ J 9 8 6
♣ K 5 3

SOUTH
♠ A 5 4
♡ Q J 3
◇ 10 3
♣ 10 9 8 6 2

The bidding:

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
1♡	Pass	1NT	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening lead: Ten of ♡

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North had a borderline two-no-trump opening bid, but decided to downgrade the hand because of a lack of intermediate cards. When South responded one no trump, it needed no more than simple addition for North to go direct to game.

West led the ten of hearts, taken by the king in dummy. Since the club suit had to be developed and there was a dearth of entries to the closed hand, declarer cashed the ace of clubs at trick two and continued with the queen.

East grabbed the king and all would have been well had the defender continued with hearts. But East shifted to the king of spades, and declarer was in trouble. The ace was held up twice, but when declarer finally took the ace, the club suit was blocked. With no way to get to the closed hand, two club winners withered on the vine and declarer eventually went down two tricks.

Had South paid a bit more attention to the problem, the solution would have been easy to find. Before going after clubs, South should cash the table's ace of hearts. Now even the fine defense by East of winning the second club to block the suit and shifting to spades can be nullified.

On winning the ace of spades, declarer can cash the queen of hearts and jettison the blocking jack of clubs from the board. That allows declarer to cash three club tricks and assure nine tricks — 10 if anyone is bold enough to risk defeat by trying the diamond finesse.

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ANNOUNCEMENT
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The Telecommunications Regulatory Commission (TRC) of Jordan announces that it has released a Call for Tenders for two national public payphone licences.
Following consultation with the industry, the TRC issued the Call for Tenders dated December 14, 1996 (TRC Call 1996-2), which sets out the process that the TRC will follow in awarding the new licences. The process consists of two phases. During the first phase, a special tender evaluation committee will review the technical aspects of the submissions from all applicants. Those applicants who successfully pass this phase will participate in the second phase, in which their sealed financial proposals will be opened at a meeting of all qualifying applicants.
Parties interested in applying for the payphone licences may obtain a copy of the Call for Tenders from the TRC upon payment of JD1,500 before January 14, 1997. The deadline for the submission of applications is March 16, 1997.
For a copy of TRC Call 1996-2, or for further information, contact:
The Office of the Director General
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P.O. Box 850967, Amman 11185, Jordan
Telephone (962) 6-862024 - Fax (962) 6-863641

Request for Proposals for Installation and Operation of a Demonstration Facility

The "Water Quality Improvment and Conservation" Project, Ministry of Water and Irrigation invites experienced Water and Sewage, Class Two contractors to prepare proposals to install and operate a pilot wastewater treatment plant at the Jordan Yeast Co., Zarqa. Major equipment will be furnished to the Subcontractor by the Project.
Offers are requested to pick up RFP No. Jordan 96-014 documents from the WQIC Project Assistant, 2nd Floor, Ministry of Water and Irrigation Building in Shmeisani beginning 12:00 O'clock noon on Saturday, December 14th, 1996.
Closing Date for Offers is 12:00 O'clock noon on Saturday, January 11th, 1997

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PHILADELPHIA 2
TWISTER
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

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Zamalek land African Cup for record 4th time

CAIRO (R) — Zamalek of Egypt lifted a record fourth African Champions' Cup on Friday when they beat 10-man Shooting Stars of Nigeria 5–4 on penalties in the final.

The Egyptian side, trailing 2-1 after the first leg in Ibadan, Nigeria, two weeks ago, won the second leg 2-1 in front of a hysterical 80,000 crowd to make it 3-3 on aggregate and force the penalty shoot-out.

Zamalek had seemed to be on course for a clear-cut win after going 2-0 up but a lapse in concentration in the dying stages allowed Stars to draw level on aggregate as substitute Gbenga Okunowo sneaked a last-minute goal for the outclassed Nigerians at the end of a bruising encounter.

When the final went immediatly into spot-kicks — African competitions do not allow for extra time in an aggregate draw — both teams scored four out of their five regulation penalties before Ossama Nabil put Zamalek 5–4 ahead.

Stars' substitute Ademola Johnson then blasted the ball against the underside of the bar, and saw it bounce out to give Zamalek victory.

Knowing a 1-0 win would be enough to secure the cup on the away goal rules, Zamalek attacked from the outset and twice hit the woodwork before defender Mehdi Abdelhadi curled a close-range shot into the net in the 27th minute.

Stars had David Ogaga, who had only been on the pitch for 22 minutes, sent off in the 60th minute for a crude foul in midfield and Zamalek looked to have sealed the win six minutes later when Tarek Mustapha beat oncoming goalkeeper Abiodun Baruwa and centred perfectly for Ayman Mansour to head into an empty net.

The Cairo aristocrats could well have increased their 2-0 lead had Algerian international Kamel Kaci said not squandered two gilt-edge chances and they almost paid the price when Okunowo slammed home for Stars to silence the boisterous crowd.

Visiting Nigerians fans were pelted throughout the game by locals in the terraces above them and later set upon by riot police, who chased them out of the stadium.

Baggio set to leave AC Milan after row with coach Saachi

ROME (AFP) — World Cup star Roberto Baggio was set to leave AC Milan after a row with coach Arrigo Saachi, according to an Italian press report on Saturday.

Sports daily Corriere Dello Sport claimed Baggio was packing his bags and would no longer play for the five-times European Cup winners.

Sacchi, two weeks into his new job after coaching the national side, has been at loggerheads with the former FIFA Footballer of the Year ever since the striker's penalty miss in a shootout handed Brazil the 1994 World Cup title.

The report claimed that problems between the two reached a head after Friday's training when Baggio confronted Saachi about his attitude towards him and of his chances of making the team.

An irritated Saachi replied dryly: "If I play with two strikers you have a chance of playing, but if I play just one attacker, you have no chance."

Club General Manager Silvano Ramaccioni was present at the dispute and backed Saachi, saying cuttingly to Baggio: "It's not fair to steal money from Berlusconi." The striker turned on his heels and left the training to return home.

Ravanelli to stay at Middlesbrough

MIDDLESBROUGH (AFP) — Middlesbrough's Italian striker Fabrizio Ravanelli Friday rubbished reports that he wants to leave the struggling premiership club.

The 28-year-old, who has been linked with a move to a number of English and Italian clubs including Manchester United and Inter Milan, also revealed that he is suing a paper that quoted him as wanting to desert the club just months after his arrival from Juventus.

"I want to tell all Boro fans that, despite moving to a new club and a new country, I could not have hoped to have settled in better in the few months I have been on Teesside," he said.

"The club, the supporters and all the people of Teesside have made me feel extremely welcome and I want to thank them by doing well for Middlesbrough. There is no way I want to leave the club."

Ravanelli has also revealed that he has issued high court proceedings for libel against the Daily Mirror over articles published about him earlier in December.

Ravanelli, the club's leading scorer with 16 goals, said: "I have read a number of articles in the British press which attributed comments to me which have been without any foundation whatsoever.

"They have caused me great embarrassment because people have kept asking me if it is true that I want to leave the club." Middlesbrough Manager Bryan Robson also slammed the "damaging" speculation that Ravanelli would be leaving the club.

"I have not had one approach from any club concerning Ravanelli. He is 100 per cent happy at this club," said former England captain Robson. "The only problem for Ravanelli is misleading articles in the press that upset him. Ravanelli has 100 per cent backing from his teammates."

Miller leads Indiana Pacers past Boston Celtics with buzzer-beater

INDIANAPOLIS (R) — Reggie Miller drained a three-point buzzer-beater to lift the Pacers to a 97-94 victory over the Boston Celtics on Friday, ending Indiana's three-game losing streak.

With the game apparently headed for overtime, Miller took an inbounds pass from Vincent Askew with 1.2 seconds left, turned around and released his shot with just one-tenth of a second on the clock. The ball swished through the net as the final buzzer sounded.

"I told Vince after the timeout to look for me," Miller said. "I think he saw I was wide open and he made a great pass. I got a great look. I couldn't ask for a better look."

Miller, the Pacers' go-to guy at crunch time, finished with 25 points, including 15 in the final period.

"He stepped up and hit the big one," Boston coach M.L. Carr said of Miller. "I thought we did a good job on him in the first half. He hit the big shot at the end."

Derrick McKey contributed 17 points, seven rebounds and seven assists as the Pacers erased a seven-point third-quarter deficit with a season-best 35-point fourth quarter.

David Wesley scored 18 points, Eric Williams added 17 and nine rebounds and Dino Radja scored 14 points for Boston.

At Los Angeles, Shaquille O'Neal scored eight of his 34 points in overtime, including a go-ahead layup with 16 seconds left, to give the Lakers to a 120-119 victory over the Portland Trail Blazers.

O'Neal, who blocked a shot with 1.4 seconds remaining, had 10 rebounds, seven assists and six blocks as the Lakers won for the ninth time in their last 11 games.

At New Jersey, Michael Jordan scored 22 of his 32 points in the first half as the Chicago Bulls opened a 27-point lead and cruised to a 113-92 victory over the Nets.

Scottie Pippen scored 24 points and Ron Harper added 12 for the Bulls, who won without suspended forward Dennis Rodman and injured centre Luc Longley to improve to 19-3.

Robert Pack scored 25 points to lead the Nets, who played without forward Jayson Williams, who currently leads the NBA in rebounding but sat out with a sprained thumb.

The hot-shooting Bulls led 62–40 at intermission and were up by at least 18 points the rest of the way.

At Washington, Chris Webber had 25 points and 11 rebounds and Jaren Jackson hit a crucial three-pointer with 50 seconds left to lead the Bullets past the Denver Nuggets, 108-104.

Juwan Howard added 22 points and Rod Strickland chipped in 18 points and 12 assists for the Bullets.

Dale Ellis had 22 points and Mark Jackson added 15 and dished out 18 assists for the floundering Nuggets, who have dropped nine straight and 13 of their last 14 games.

At Minnesota, Tom Gugliotta scored 12 of his 25 points in the fourth quarter and drilled a jumper from the corner with 16 seconds left as the Timberwolves snapped a six-game losing streak with a 108-105 victory over the Phoenix Suns.

Stephon Marbury had 21 points and 10 assists, Doug West added 15 points and Sam Mitchell contributed 13 for Minnesota, which beat Phoenix for just the third time in 30 meetings.

In Charlotte, Glen Rice scored five of his 24 points on free throws in the final two minutes and five different players hit layups in a decisive 10-2 fourth-quarter run as the Hornets beat the Philadelphia 76ers 84-75.

Charlotte, which got 20 points and 11 rebounds from Vlade Divac, posted its fourth straight win and sent the Sixers to their sixth consecutive defeat. Anthony Mason chipped in 13 points and 13 rebounds for Charlotte.

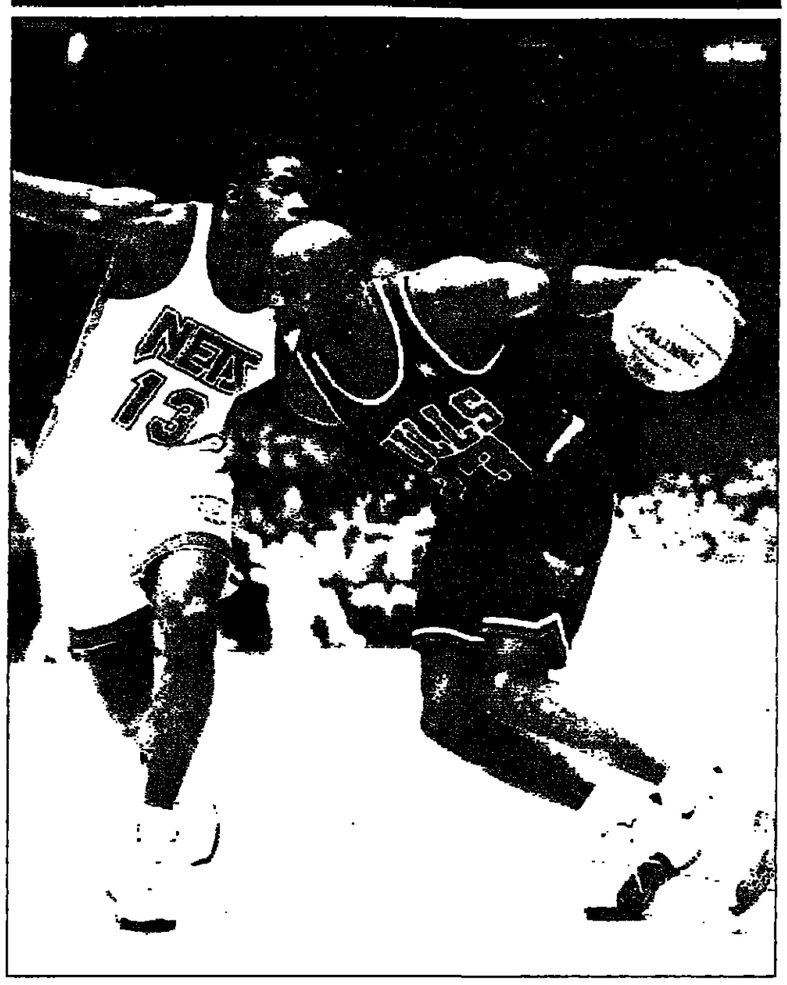
In Cleveland, Bobby Sura scored 22 points, including four in a decisive fourth-quarter run, and Tyrone Hill added 20 as the Cavaliers rolled past the Golden State Warriors 101-87.

Bobby Phills had eight points and Terrell Brandon six during the 23-8 Cavalier run that turned a one-point deficit into a comfortable 14-point victory. Latrell Sprewell scored 22 points and Chris Mullin added 21 for the Warriors, who have not beaten the Cavs since 1992.

In Vancouver, Bryant Reeves scored 27 points and rookie Shareef Abdul Rahim added 21 points and 11 rebounds as the Grizzlies snapped a three-game losing streak with a 95-93 victory over the injury-plagued Orlando Magic.

Rony Seikaly had 25 points and 12 rebounds and Gerald Wilkins added 15 points for Orlando, which again played without injured starters Penny Hardaway and Nick Anderson.

NBA ROUNDUP



Chicago Bulls guard Michael Jordan (right) drives for the basket around New Jersey Nets guard Kendall Gill (13) in the second period of their NBA game Friday at the Meadowlands Arena in East Ruthfordford, New Jersey (Reuters photo)

Turkish referees want more protection

ISTANBUL (R) — Turkish soccer referees on Friday appealed to the interior and justice ministries and the police for more protection against violent fans.

Osman Avci, general secretary of the Active Soccer Referees and Observers Association, said in one recent incident three officials were hospitalised after they were beaten in the street following an amateur match in the eastern city of Erzurum.

Executive members of Erzurum amateur sports clubs were allegedly among the attackers.

"This happens at every level — at school fixtures the sports teacher beats the referee. Everyone is stressed," said Avci.

He said politicians — tangled in a recent scandal over ties between the state, police and underworld — and club administrators had been making fiery statements which increased public aggression.

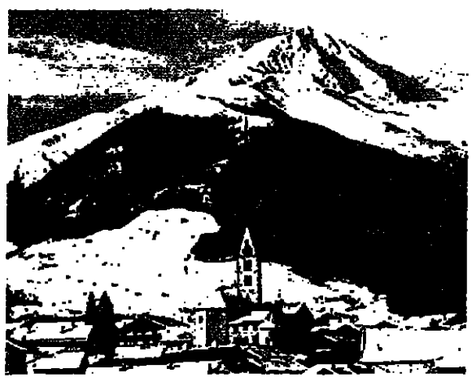
"This has to be stopped before there is a tragedy," Avci said.

One referee is suing the chairman and executive board of a club for attacking him after a match in the central town of Kirikkale.

Another referee and his assistants were recovering in hospital in the western town of Aydin from blows inflicted by a police team after he dismissed two players.

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Popular Myth:

It's good to be "Fashionably Late"

At Rihani gentlemen's clothing establishments, we have our eyes on the latest fashions and newest materials. How? We simply attend and place our orders at the biggest European fashion shows one year in advance.

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Senate seeks to revamp its role in democracy

Upper House to hold special session to discuss amendments to internal statutes

By Tareq Momani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Upper House of Parliament (Senate) on Saturday agreed to hold a special session to study the subject of amending its internal regulations with the purpose of promoting its role in the democratisation process in Jordan.

During a session chaired by Senate Speaker Ahmad Lawzi and attended by the Council of Ministers, the senators discussed a proposal by Senator Rajai Muasher calling for a reexamination of the Senate internal by-laws and the role of the Senate.

Dr. Muasher has also called for stimulating the activities of the Senate so that its role can be more effective.

Senators' views on the subject ranged from demands that these matters be discussed secretly to call for open sessions.

Some of the senators proposed the formation of a special committee to be entrusted with the task of introducing amendment to the by-laws and submitting a draft to the Senate for debate, while others said that such a task must be given to the Senate's Law Committee.

The majority of senators wanted the session to be closed because the subjects on the agenda are of paramount importance. They said in a closed session this subject could be discussed in full and more effectively.

At the end the Senate agreed on amending the internal regulations and Mr. Lawzi announced that he will call for a special session to deal with the subject next week.

Senators who were involved in the discussion on the issue included Ahmad Tarawneh, Taher Hikmat, Saeed Al Tal, Kamal Al Shaer, Thouqan Hindawi, Jawad Anani, Zeid Rifai, Ma'n Abu Nowar, Laila Sharaf, Abdul Latif Arabiyat, Kamel Abu Jaber, Natheer Rashid and Salem Masaadeh.

The Senate also referred to its Law Committee a draft law on Jerash Municipal Court and to the Finance Committee a draft amendment to the banks law. It also endorsed a financial protocol between Jordan and France under which France will grant Jordan assistance worth 100 million francs ($20 million) to help it carry out developmental projects. Of this amount 10 million francs ($2 million) will be grant and the rest will come in the form of a loan which will be paid over 20 years with interest at the rate of one per cent with a seven year grace period.

The 10-million-franc grant will be used to finance a study on water projects for Mafraq and for the southern Jordan Valley, and another study on the treatment of solid waste and the development of Amman airport.

The 90 million franc loan will be used to finance the expansion of the grain silo in Irbid, boost the capacity of the waste water treatment plant in Baqaa and develop the radar centre at Amman airport.

The Senate endorsed an amendment to the penal code which stipulates that a person will be imprisoned between one and two years and will pay a JD100-200 fine if he/she commits any of the following violations:

A. Issuing a cheque without sufficient deposit.

B. Withdrawing balance after issuing the cheque.

C Instructing the bank to refrain from cashing a cheque in violation of the given rules.

D. Endorsing a cheque to another person while knowing that it will not be honoured.

E. Issuing a cheque in a manner that it could not be cashed.

The Senate also returned to the Lower House a draft amendment to a law on civil courts after introducing some amendments.

At the Lower House, the Finance and Economic Committee Saturday continued its examination of the 1997 fiscal budget which was presented to the House last month.

The session was attended by the ministers of finance, health and supply and the heads of Jordan Pharmacists Association and the Consumer Protection Society.

After completing its debate of the draft budget, the committee will submit it to the House with its recommendations.

In a statement after the meeting, the committee chairman, Abed Mousa Nahar, said that the committee reviewed with Health Minister Aref Bataineh his ministry's activities and services and raising the standard of these services in public hospitals and health centres.

The committee looked into the subject of health insurance for various sectors of the public and the steps being taken by the Health Ministry to introduce a comprehensive national health insurance system for all Jordanians.

Mr. Nahar said the committee underlined the need for the Ministry of Health to ensure the availability of medicines and promote local production of pharmaceutical products.

He said the committee reviewed with Dr. Bataineh his ministry's plans for new hospitals and discussed with Minister of Supply Munir Sobar the general supply situation in the Kingdom and the distribution of cash subsidy for bread and the control of prices.

The committee plans to meet Sunday to finalise discussion of the draft budget. It will be meeting with the ministers of finance and social development and the directors of the National Aid Fund and the Employment and Development Fund as well as the director of the Social Security Corporation.



REWARD: A group of Kashmiri residents read a poster offering a one million rupee ($28,000) reward by the Indian government for information on four Western hostages at Srinagar, the summer capital of the troubled state of Jammu and Kashmir. The hostages — American Donald Hutchings and German Dirk Hasert and Britons Keith Mangan and Paul Wells — were taken hostage by shadowy guerrillas in July 1995 while on a trekking holiday in the Himalayas (Reuters photo)

Students demand PNA free PFLP activists

NABLUS (Agencies) — Hundreds of Palestinian students protested in Nablus on Saturday against a Palestinian National Authority (PNA) crackdown on a radical group that claimed responsibility for the killing of two Jewish settlers.

"We reject the political arrests and we demand the authority release those who were arrested," a student leader of Palestinian President Yasser Arafat's Fateh faction told the rally at Al Najah University in the West Bank city.

Palestinian security forces detained scores of activists of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) after the group said it carried out the shooting near self-ruled Ramallah on Wednesday, the PFLP said.

Student activists told the rally five students from Bir Zeit University were among those arrested. Israel has demanded a crackdown.

"All respect to those who executed the heroic operation," read a sign at Saturday's protest, reflecting Palestinian anger at Israeli Prime Minister Benyamin Netanyahu's decision on Friday to give financial incentives for Jewish settlement in the occupied West Bank.

Palestinian police barred the PFLP from holding a protest rally in self-ruled Bethlehem on Saturday, PFLP members said.

The Damascus-based PFLP opposes Israeli-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) peace accords that set up limited Palestinian autonomy in parts of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"We are angry at the cancellation of this rally. Our boys were arrested many times in Israeli jails and we hope these jails will not now be used for pure nationalists," one activist, who did not want to be named, told Reuters.

In Damascus, the PFLP also called on Mr. Arafat to free the militants arrested after the drive-by shooting.

"The PFLP asks the Palestinian (National) Authority, which has arrested more than 27 of its militants, to free them immediately," spokesman Maher Taher said.

A PFLP statement cited as a cause for the attack an Israeli plan to build the first Jewish homes inside a Palestinian neighbourhood of East Jerusalem since the sector was occupied by Israel in 1967.

Seventeen were arrested on Thursday and another 10 early Friday, including Mahmoud Fannun, a member of the Palestinian National Council, which is the PLO's highest body.

Israeli commitment to agreements key to success of peace process — key message of AKM conference

By Francesca Ciriaci
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Only if Prime Minister Benyamin Netanyahu's government keeps up with the commitments the state of Israel has signed with the Palestinians and respects the land-for-peace principle as upheld by U.N. Security Council Resolution 242 the peace process will survive. This was the message conveyed by participants in a three-day international conference on "And What if the Middle East Peace process fails?" as they left Amman on Saturday.

Though feelings ranging from discouragement to pessimism and appeals to definitely break the already slowed-down Arab-Israeli negotiations were expressed. "we all agreed that the peace process is in a severe crisis," said Jordan's representative to the symposium Kamel Abu Jaber.

"My own analysis is that the election of Netanyahu has put the entire peace process in question," said Dr. Abu Jaber, who is also a member of the Upper House of Parliament and former foreign minister.

In an interview with the Jordan Times over the major outcomes of the conference, Dr. Abu Jaber joined other participants in strong criticism of the hard-line policies of the Netanyahu government, widely considered at the conference as responsible for the logjam in the Arab-Israeli negotiations and a possible cause of failure of the peace process.

The autumn meeting of the Academy of the Kingdom of Morocco (AKM) started Tuesday and was convened in Amman upon the invitation of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and the endorsement of King Hassan of Morocco.

As the AKM does not publish deliberations, its meetings end with "a simple accumulation of interventions."

However, "the Amman conference reiterated the principles on which the Arab stand (in the peace negotiations) is based," said Mohammed Tajeddine Husseini, professor of international law and director of the Centre for Strategic Studies at the Rabat-based Mohammad V University.

Dr. Husseini said the key-points in the Arab stand vis-a-vis the peace process include the reiteration of the land-for-peace formula, respect for the aspirations of the Palestinian people and their right to establish an independent state with Jerusalem as its capital, and the demand for Israel's withdrawal from all the territories occupied during the 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

"Mr. Netanyahu is trying to replace the land-for-peace principle with a so-called security-for-peace formula," said Dr. Husseini. But this will provoke a new intifada and new wars, he said.

More than 20 papers analysing all possible causes and scenarios in case of failure of the peace process were presented at the AKM meeting, hosted by the Royal Academy for Islamic Civilisation Research Al al Bait Foundation.

The prominent intellectu.

(Continued on page 7)

South Lebanon quiet after mystery Katyusha attack

BEIRUT (R) — Israel said Katyusha rockets fired from inside Lebanon for the first time in eight months hit northern Israel, but the origin of the Friday night attack remained a mystery and South Lebanon was quiet on Saturday.

The attack was the first breach of an April 26 ceasefire understanding in South Lebanon that banned attacks on civilian areas by Israeli forces and guerrillas trying to oust them from Lebanon.

The pro-Iranian Hizbollah (Party of God), which leads the resistance against Israel, denied firing the Katyushas and three Palestinian guerrilla groups contacted by Reuters also denied involvement.

The attack caused concern in Beirut because it took place three days before a "friends of Lebanon" donors' conference in Washington on Monday at which Lebanon hopes to raise up to $5 billion to help finance its post-civil war reconstruction.

Prime Minister Rafik Al Hariri and other officials will argue at the conference that the government has restored stability and worked hard in the past four years to set the country on the road to recovery.

U.N. sources in South Lebanon said peacekeeping troops from the U.N. Interim Force In Lebanon (UNIFIL) were looking for the site from which the highly mobile Katyushas were fired, but overnight rain had probably washed away traces of the launching.

The sources said both UNIFIL and Lebanese army troops heard two bangs during the night in the vicinity of Qlaileh, a village near the coast south of Tyre, about 10 kilometres north of the Israeli border.

Qlaileh is not far from the Palestinian refugee camp of Rashidiyeh and the sources said guerrillas there could launch Katyushas.

A Hizbollah official in Beirut told Reuters: "we the Islamic resistance deny firmly that we have launched any Katyusha rockets on Friday."

The Israeli army said Katyusha rockets hit the western Galilee region of northern Israel at about 8 p.m. There were no reports of casualties or damage, it said.

An Israeli army spokesman said the attack was a blunt violation of the ceasefire understandings. Israeli guns shelled the Qlaileh area briefly after the attack but there was no immediate further response on Saturday.

Before Israel's 17-day blitz on Lebanon last April which killed 200 people, mainly civilians, but failed to wipe out Hizbollah, the guerrillas followed a policy of firing Katyushas into Israel whenever Israeli shelling caused Lebanese civilian casualties in South Lebanon.

But Hizbollah has refrained from such attacks since the U.S.-sponsored April 26 accord.

The accord set up a monitoring group of representatives of the United States, France, Syria, Lebanon and Israel to observe the truce.

The group has three times rebuked Israel in the past three months for bombarding civilian areas and wounding civilians, and has twice said it "deplored" the Israeli actions.

On Thursday, the group said Israel was responsible for shelling two South Lebanon villages on the previous Saturday, and deplored the wounding of six civilians in the bombardment.

Some military analysts expressed surprise that the monitoring group did not criticise Israel's use of "flechette" rounds — anti-personnel shells that spray hundreds of steel darts — which according to U.N. officials are banned under the Geneva conventions.

They were also surprised that the group failed to mention that the shells were fired by a tank directly at the villages.

The Saturday shelling followed an attack by guerrillas that killed one Israeli soldier and wounded another.

The Los Angles Times reported Saturday Iran is flying at least three 747 Jumbo cargo jets filled with supplies to Syria each month for shipment to Lebanon.

The Times, citing Pentagon and U.S. intelligence sources, said the shipments are part of an effort to upgrade the arms capabilities of Tehran's allies.

Included in the shipments, which are primarily weapons but also some humanitarian

(Continued on page 7)

Baghdad appears to be normal after attack on Uday Hussein

Dawa Al Islamiya claims responsibility for ambush

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Life in the Iraqi capital appeared normal on Saturday, with no sign of any unusual security measures two days after Saddam Hussein's eldest son Uday survived an assassination attempt in the heart of Baghdad.

An official newspaper said Baghdad would not succumb to plots against it, after the gun attack on Uday.

"Iraq will not yield to conspiracies and will not stop its path to progress," the Babel newspaper, which is run by Uday, said in an editorial.

It said Thursday's attack on Uday, 33, had "stolen the joy" of Iraqi people after Baghdad began pumping oil this week for the first time in six years in an easing of U.N. sanctions imposed after Iraq's August 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

"Iraqis resisted a coalition of 30 countries (during the 1991 Gulf war) and endured an embargo of more than six years. This cowardly act will only strengthen their resistance," the newspaper said.

Uday was shot and wounded in an ambush on Thursday evening while he was driving his car in the wealthy Al Mansur district of central Baghdad.

His condition was described on Thursday as not giving cause for concern.

Palestinian President Yasser Arafat sent a message to President Saddam expressing hope for Uday, the official Iraqi News Agency (INA) said Saturday.

"While thanking God for having saved your son from this cowardly act, we wish for him to recover from his injuries and express to you our fraternal solidarity with the Iraqi people," Mr. Arafat said.

An outlawed Iraqi Shiite Muslim party, Al Daawa Al Islamiya, said in a statement received in Beirut on Saturday that it was responsible for the attack.

"A group of our heroic strugglers...inflicted the verdict of God and the people unto the enemy of God and the people, Uday Saddam Al Tikriti, who has caused mischief and crime in the land, like his dictator father," the party said in a statement faxed to an international news agency in Beirut.

The group said in the statement dated Dec. 12 that its fighters "besieged (Uday's) motorcade at Al Mansour market in Baghdad on Thursday afternoon and fired a hail of bullets, wounding him several times, so he escaped from a certain death." Iraq's former intelligence chief said he believed the assassination attempt was carried out by an opposition group and not by members of Baghdad's ruling inner circle.

Wafiq Al Samerai told Reuters he did not know who tried to kill Uday, but that such an attack had long been planned by a group of Iraqi-based former members of the ruling Baath Party, the Unified Democratic Front (UDF).

"According to information I had when I was in Iraq and to additional data I got after leaving the country the (UDF) front was observing Uday's movements in particular at Al Mansour district where he was attacked and was planning to kill him," Mr. Samerai said.

The former intelligence chief, who fled Iraq in 1994, said the attack would encourage other attempts "because the regime could not impose more strict security measures than those implemented now."

Eyewitnesses said at least two gunmen attacked Uday's car, injuring the man widely seen as successor to his father. Iraq's official media on Friday said an investigation was underway.

Mr. Samerai said the attack would have a strong impact on the opposition in Iraq because it came after the implementation of the

(Continued on page 7)

COLUMN 8

Father, daughter win $9 million

TOULON (AFP) — A father and daughter who played the lottery separately in different towns in the south of France ended up sharing the jackpot, raking in a total of 44 million francs (nearly $9 million) on Friday the 13th. Bastien Bonhoure, 75, a former gendarme, heard the news from his daughter Paulette, 48, a civil servant. "We'd both played the same numbers for about 10 years," he said, adding that they each won 22,321,450 francs. A nephew of Paul Bonhoure, the first national lottery winner in 1933, Bastien said his entire loto win would be split into nine parts among all the members of his family.

Charles slams all things modern

LONDON (R) — Prince Charles has lashed out at materialism, science and other scourges of modern life, saying Britain treated tradition like a "socially unacceptable disease." He said: "Modern materialism, in my humble opinion, is unbalanced and increasingly damaging in its long-term consequences." "Science has tried to assume a monopoly, even a tyranny, over our understanding." Scientists had tried to take over the natural world from God with "sombre and horrifying" consequences, he said, citing the recent outbreak of so-called mad cow disease in Britain. "We are only now beginning to gauge the disastrous results of this outlook...Indeed, tradition is positively discriminated against — as if it were some socially unacceptable disease." The Times published an extract from a speech the prince delivered to a private meeting of executives, academics, civil servants and religious leaders. Prince Charles — a practising Anglican — also urged the West to learn from Islam and adopt a more holistic approach to life.

Canadian couple get 12 gifts from secret Santa

TORONTO (R) — Twelve drummers drumming arrived this week on the doorstep of an elderly Canadian couple, capping a 12-year saga in which they received the gifts of "the 12 days of Christmas" from distant locales. The tale began in 1985 when Mary and Stanley Grandish of Edmonton, Alberta, discovered a stuffed partridge in their backyard pear tree. "We thought that was the end of it and then the second year it kept on and on and we got parcels from Australia, from Germany, from Switzerland, from Ontario and Alberta, all different places," said Mary Grandish, 80. The anonymous gifts, which came in the order outlined in the traditional verse and song, included six white satin geese mailed from Germany, seven silver napkin holders shaped like swans from Australia and eight tiny maids, all a-milking stuffed felt cows from wildwood, Alberta. Each gift arrived from a different city, with no return address and few clues about the sender.

French Snow White wins damages from Walt Disney

PARIS (R) — A French court ordered the Walt Disney Company to compensate an actress for not paying her video and record royalties for her work dubbing the film Snow White into French. Lucie Dolene, 66, who sang the French version of the song "One Day My Prince Will Come," told a Paris court the company had "stolen her voice." She was awarded a provisional 130,000 francs ($22,000). She had demanded half a million francs ($100,000) in damages under a 1985 French law protecting artists' copyrights. Lawyers for the Walt Disney Company said the terms of Dolene's hiring in 1958 allowed for later use of her voice.